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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the CNMI Labor Department's performance in terms of placing unemployed workers in jobs?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 5

As of May 14, 2009

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For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Body Challenge

The results are out in Gold's Gym Saipan's "2009 Body Success Challenge."

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Religious courses in PSS curriculum sparks debate. **PAGE 7**

Rebates may be out by June 15

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that approximately $10 million in calendar year 2008 tax rebates will be distributed, some of them as early as June 15—much earlier than the distribution dates during previous years.

Due to an economic slowdown, taxpayers look forward to their tax rebates to supplement their regular income.

Inos, who has been tasked by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to oversee all government

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Over $62K paid to CUC consultants

- Some used oil drums test positive for PCBs
- Time ticks for CUC to comply with EPA regs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has obligated a total of $62,148 to two consultants working on at least 11 items needed to meet some of the requirements of a consent decree that compels CUC to adhere to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations, CUC officials told the Public Utilities and In-

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Capt. Ulysses O. Zalamea, the deputy director of the U.S. Navy Defense Department Joint Guam Program Office, speaks during the start of the Second Annual Pacific Mayors' Conference at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

RELATED NEWS

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'Tinian will be a major part of Guam buildup'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Capt. Ulysses O. Zalamea, the deputy director of the U.S. Navy Defense Department Joint Guam Program Office presented yesterday insights on the

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Fitial tells Pacific mayors of ill effects of federalization

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial speaks at the opening of the 2nd Annual Pacific Mayor's Conference, focusing on the issue, "Beyond the economic and social impacts of federalization."

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday told visiting mayors from the Pacific region that the economic and social consequences of federalization appear quite grim, including the removal of foreign workers not eligible for federal visas in five years and the elimination of Russian and Chinese tourists.

Fitial, the first resource speaker at yesterday's opening of the 2nd Annual Pacific Mayor's Conference, focused on

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Local

Shell gas prices now over $3 a gallon

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Motorists now have to spend over $3 a gallon of self-serve gasoline to fill up their vehicles after Shell Marianas yesterday raised its pump prices by 15 cents a gallon, the first price increase since February.

Mobil Oil Marianas service stations, however, said they have not yet received notice of any price increase as of 4pm yesterday, although Mobil raised its pump prices by 15 cents a gallon on Tuesday night, only to roll them back on Wednesday.

Shell's self-serve regular unleaded gasoline is now $3.12 a gallon, from only $2.97 a gallon on Wednesday.

A self-serve premium unleaded gasoline is now $3.44 a gallon, while diesel fuel is now $3.30 a gallon at Shell's eight service stations on Saipan.

Prices of self-serve gasoline at Mobil stations remained yesterday at $2.97 a gallon for regular, while super unleaded, $3.27 a gallon.

Mobil and Shell have lately been raising pump prices on Saipan without advance notification to consumers.

CNMI consumers pay much higher for gasoline than their counterparts on the U.S. mainland. The U.S. average for a gallon of regular is $2.218, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said Monday, up 1 cent from last week.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Shell Marianas raised pump prices of gasoline by 15 cents a gallon yesterday morning, the first price change since February this year.

NEW SHELL PRICES

SELF-SERVE	
Regular	$3.12 a gallon
Premium	$3.44 a gallon
FULL-SERVE	
Regular	$3.25
Premium	$3.56
Diesel	$3.30

Joeten Kagman grand opening today

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Today is the grand opening of Joeten Kagman.

The who's-who of government and local business are expected in this morning's much awaited grand opening of Joeten Kagman.

According to the J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. corporate special project manager, Bo Palacios, no less than Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will be making remarks at the event.

Also invited are members of the Legislature and community leaders like Jesse Torres of the Kagman Kommunidot Association, Father Manny Corcuera of the Sta. Soledad Parish, and members of the Farmers Association.

Palacios said Joeten has also invited principals of Kagman public schools to attend as well as officials from the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. He added that the entire Kagman community is also invited to the grand opening, which starts at 10am today.

Joeten's Norman Tenorio will be giving the official message from the company's board of directors. Palacios added that Joeten will also use the grand opening as the occasion to launch the company's Ecobags, which is Joeten's major initiative to go green.

Joeten spent $1 million for the construction of the 5,000-square foot grocery, which actually soft-opened in December last year. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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greg@elliottartwork.com

Three elementary schools meet PSS' 2010 goals

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Three of the 12 public elementary schools on the islands have successfully achieved and met the Public School System's goal for school year 2010, according to the Board of Education. That goal is to see the students scoring above the 50th percentile on the Stanford Achievement Test, or SAT-10.

The results of the April 2008 SAT-10 show a continuation of the 10-year trend of student learning gains, with the Gregorio T. Camacho, San Vicente, and Tinian elementary schools becoming the first public schools in the CNMI to meet the goal a year ahead.

Saipan Tribune learned that GTC, for the third consecutive year, met the 2008 goal with over 80 percent of its students reading at or above their grade levels.

The island's second largest elementary, San Vicente with it 845 students, reached its 2010 goal with student scores exceeding the 52nd national percentile—the fourth consecutive year it has done so.

Tinian Elementary also met the 2010 student learning goal.

At the GTC elementary, third graders scored at the 78th percentile, fifth graders at 66th percentile, and 6th graders at the 61st percentile on the SAT-10 complete battery.

In San Vicente, the third graders' battery aggregate score was at the 53rd percentile, the fifth graders scored at the 47th percentile, and the sixth graders scored at the 59th percentile.

The SVES overall SAT 10 score in 2007 was at the 53rd percentile. In all three grades tested, SVES students scored well above the adequate yearly progress target for each grade.

Additionally, 70 percent of SVES students are reading at or above their grade levels.

PSS said five other schools showed substantial learning gains on the SAT-10 with student scoring above the 40th percentile on average.

It said all schools remained focused on the PSS 2008 goal: that 80 percent of the students are reading at or above grade level.

Federal programs officer Tim Thornbugh said yesterday the consolidated federal and local monies played an integral part in the schools' success data.

PSS, for next school year, proposes to use $3 million of the over $9 million consolidated grant to buy educational and instructional materials, including computer software and hardware under the grant's Innovative Assistance Program.

Each of 20 public schools develops innovative assistance programs that are tailored to the educational needs of the students at that school, as determined by student scores on the SAT-10, Star Reading program, Star Math Program, and on the CNMI standards-based assessments of student achievement.

"We're now paying utilities below the average amount," Tenorio said, citing the conservation efforts of individual schools as a "great help."

PSS earlier disclosed that it projects an unfunded liability of $11 million with the Retirement Fund by the end of fiscal year. As of April, the shortfall was at $3.8 million, which was still based on the 36.77 percent actuarial contribution rate.

Saipan Tribune learned that last fiscal year, PSS accumulated a $7.3 million shortfall on this obligation.

The anticipated amount of the current shortfall may go down due to a recent law that pegged the contribution rate of members from 36 percent to 11 percent.

ON TOP OF $11M UNFUNDED LIABILITY TO FUND

PSS *faces* $388K *shortfall in personnel*

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System expects a shortfall of nearly $400,000 for its personnel costs by the end of this fiscal year in September, on top of a projected $11 million it will owe the Retirement Fund.

The system's finance officials disclosed this during yesterday's special board meeting, saying that about $382,000 is projected to be needed to pay for PSS personnel while $6,055 is for Board of Education personnel.

The local government allocated $34.2 million for PSS this fiscal year, including $2 million in Compact Impact funds. Of the amount, $28 million is allocated for personnel, which is $2 million short of the original proposal of $30 million. The same local funding source provided $3 million to pay for schools' utilities and $3 million for operation.

As of yesterday, $16 million has so far been paid for personnel salaries and there are still 11 pay periods that remain until end of the fiscal year, according to acting finance director Lori Grizzard and financial consultant Ed Tenorio.

Grizzard said PSS allocates over $1 million every pay period for personnel costs. That means PSS will need $12 million more up to Sept. 30.

Meantime, PSS is not anticipating any shortfall in its "all others "account as a result of federal assistance provided by U.S. Department of Education.

As for its utility payments, Saipan Tribune learned that from October 2008 to February 2009, PSS has already paid CUC a total of $1.3 million.

The billings for March 2009 through September would be paid from the remaining balance of the $3 million allocated for utilities.

Tenorio said the CNMI Finance Department has been providing "up-to-date" payments on all PSS obligations, including for personnel.

There are over 900 employees with the school system.

PSS noted a slight decrease in the monthly utility consumption of schools, from the average of nearly $300,000 monthly. Tenorio said for March alone, PSS consumption totaled $224,000. The system, in previous months, has been paying $275,000 monthly.

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Surveillance operation in FSM, Palau ends

Operation Rai Balang, a bilateral maritime surveillance operation between Palau and Federated States of Micronesia to detect activities such as illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, ended yesterday.

The operation was conducted over 10 days from May 2 to 12, 2009 over the Palauan and FSM Exclusive Economic Zones in their entirety.

This is the fifth Rai Balang conducted (the first was in 2006) and was the most complex to-date. Support was provided by a diverse number of agencies in dispersed locations, including Australian advisers (through the Defense Cooperation Program), U.S. Coast Guard agencies in Guam and Hawaii, and the U.S. Navy in Japan.

During the course of the operation FSM conducted sixteen boardings with five citations issued and apprehension of one vessel, and for Palau, six boardings with two vessels directed to port for further investigation.

Data was also collected on fishing activities in the high seas to the south of Palau. Another significant outcome was that a detailed set of instructions, procedures and communications architecture were tested as a possible permanent template for future small operations like this in the Pacific.

Lt. Cdr. Kimbal Dunsmore of the Royal Australian Navy said: "While we are still collating the results from this operation, I am excited about the outcomes, particularly how well all the agencies worked together. From what I saw, the right people were receiving the right information at the right time, which is the hardest thing to achieve in this sort of activity when close coordination is required between a number of different organizations from different nations. While we didn't have any 'big busts,' my observation would be that if we are getting maritime surveillance and law enforcement right, it is the smallness of the number of apprehensions that is a measure that we are being effective."

Palau's Division of Marine Law Enforcement was the key planner for the operation with the FSM Maritime Wing and Pacific Patrol Boats FSS *Palaikir* and FSS *Micronesia* as the bilateral participants. Support was provided by USCG Sector Guam and USCG cutter *Washington*, USCG District Fourteen in Hawaii with a C-130 aircraft (based in Kwajelein, RMI) and US Navy CTF 72 with a P3-C (based in Guam). Australian support was provided by the Maritime Surveillance Advisers in Palau and FSM.

As the Palau Pacific Patrol Boat PSS *H.I. Remeliik* was unavailable for this operation and USCGC *Washington* conducted two maritime law enforcement patrols of Palau's EEZ instead. A short patrol was also carried out by *Washington* in the FSM EEZ. These activities were possible as a result of cooperative maritime law enforcement agreements between Palau and FSM and the USCG.

The operation also used data sharing in the FFA Vessel Monitoring System, a satellite-based system which monitors the position, speed and direction of registered fishing vessels. ***(PR)***

Burglar gets 2 years in prison

The Superior Court has slapped a two-year prison term on a man who was caught in the act of burglarizing a house in Koblerville.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced George Aldan Aguon to five years in prison, all suspended except for 24 months, for burglary.

Following a plea agreement, Manglona gave the 55-year-old Aguon credit for the time he has already served in jail since May 23, 2008.

Aguon is expected to complete his prison term at the Department of Corrections on May 23, 2010.

Aguon will be placed on three years probation, be required to perform 100 hours of community service, and pay a $100 fine.

Aguon signed a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to burglary.

In return, government lawyer Joseph Przyuski agreed to dismiss the theft charge. He also agreed to withdraw the government's motion to revoke the defendant's probation.

On May 23, 2008, at 12:25pm, police received a report of an ongoing burglary and theft incident at the residence of Won Hee Oh Kang in Koblerville.

Kang's local neighbors helped police in arresting Aguon, who came out from the house's back door.

Aguon was reportedly found in possession of several stolen items. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FITIAL

From Page 1

the issue, "Beyond the economic and social impacts of federalization."

Public Law 110-229 places the CNMI under federal immigration control, with the five-year transition period starting on Nov. 28.

Fitial, who sued the U.S. government over federalization, said he will be in Washington, D.C. to testify on May 19 before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Ocean and Wildlife on the implementation of the federalization law.

The governor said the provisions restricting the CNMI's access to workers, tourists and investors were done, in part, in the name of U.S. national security.

In his remarks, Fitial said national security interests can be protected and advanced without unduly damaging the CNMI's economic and social security.

"I think federalization can work if the law us modified to meet our existing economic and social needs, if the necessary flexibility is in place to allow us reasonable access to tourists, workers and investors. And this is what we are now working to try to achieve," he said.

A big portion of the CNMI's guest worker population comes from the Philippines, whose mayors are represented at the conference.

Fitial said independent economic studies supported his view of the grim consequences of federalization.

"Let me be clear about what happened here: The federalization of the CNMI's immigration system was established without a meaningful economic study of its potential impact. And the law was passed during the most economically vulnerable period in the CNMI's history," he added.

He cited, for example, the loss of at least $185 million in indirect economic impact annually brought by Chinese and Russian tourists to the CNMI.

"Despite being just one-tenth of total visitor arrivals, visitors from [China] and Russia accounted for 19.6 percent of the CNMI's total tourism revenue," he said.

Besides the governor, other ranking CNMI officials who were at the mayors' conference were Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, Senate President Pete P. Reyes, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos.

TINIAN

From Page 1

upcoming military buildup in Guam, including how the island of Tinian will play a major part in it.

Speaking at the opening day of the Second Annual Pacific Mayors' Conference at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Zalamea said the buildup will include a firing range and training facilities on Tinian.

JGPO's main task is to manage and facilitate the transfer of the main bulk of the U.S. Marine Corps from Okinawa to Guam, involving about 14,000 troops on active duty.

"I'm here to present some of the challenges we are currently facing. One of the highlights is that we are making progress," Zalamea said.

Construction, he said, will begin in 2010 and this will economically benefit Guam and its neighbors in the region, including the CNMI.

Part of the program, Zalamea said, was a careful analysis of specific locations such as South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, and even Taiwan. These and other areas, he said, would have maximum access to military training and exercises without any restrictions. For instance, he said, it only takes about three hours from these countries to get to Guam or Saipan.

According to a draft of the plan, about 25,000 people would be needed to construct facilities like schools, amenities and entertainment facilities.

Being finalized is the $1 billion budget for the next fiscal year alone, not only for the construction of military training facilities but also the modernization of commercial ports and infrastructure road projects.

Zalamea said that Japan had already committed some $740 million that would provide additional fund for this effort, such as upgrading some of the existing facilities in Guam.

JGPO said it is just waiting for a proper business model from the government of Guam to be presented to them.

Zalamea's presentation, titled "What Can We Expect, Now that the Military Buildup is Underway," was attended by 11 of the 19 mayors in Guam, led by Agana Heights Mayor Paul M. McDonald, who is also president of the APILG. Other participants included 10 mayors from the Philippines and two from Kosrae.

The CNMI's four mayors were present except for Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, who is off-island on medical leave.

OVER

From Page 1

frastructure Committee yesterday.

CUC executive director Tony Muña and power generation managing engineer Venugopal Prabhakara, in their update on compliance with stipulated order No. 2, also disclosed that some drums containing used oil and are stored at Power Plant 3 at Isley Field have tested positive for polychlorinated biphenyls, PCBs.

"Disposal of used oil, primarily those with PCBs, outside of the CNMI is one of the plans," Prabhakara said.

PCBs are synthetic chemicals whose manufacture was stopped in the U.S. in 1977 because of evidence they build up in the environment and can cause harmful health effects.

Rep. Tina Sablan, chair of the PUIC, raised concern about CUC's lack of a budget breakdown for all costs associated with the requirement of the consent decree, among other things.

"To this date, CUC also still doesn't have a financial plan, a separate accounting for each of the divisions—water, power, wastewater. They still don't have a chief financial officer. It's not clear to me whether CUC is close to compliance, given a 180-day deadline from March 11," she said.

Sablan said CUC is also required to have a fulltime project coordinator for the stipulated order No. 2, but Prabhakara not only oversees SO2, but also has full responsibility over CUC's power plant.

The U.S. Department of Justice and EPA filed a civil suit against CUC for failure to comply with the Safe Water Act and Clean Water Act for years. The suit was accompanied by two stipulated orders, which means that the CNMI government agreed to the terms and conditions being required of it by the EPA.

In March, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson signed an order that sets requirements and deadlines for CUC to meet.

In their presentation yesterday, Muna and Prabhakara cited four factors blocking CUC's compliance with stipulated order No. 2, including insufficient funding due to recovering of less than 100 percent of operating costs, lack of skilled staff, lack of training and skill sets, and deficiency in the implementation of a Spill Prevention and Control Countermeasure plan.

Stipulated order 2 covers power plants 1 and 2, including the Mobil-CUC fuel transfer pipeline and Tank 104 area, as well as Power Plant 1 at Isley Field, Power Plant 4 at PMIC, and the Rota power plant.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Executive Order 2008-17 identified CUC's used oil as a threat to the environment and public health.

Sablan said CUC currently has some 400,000 gallons of used oil, about 300,000 of which are stored in Tank 104. Muña and Prabhakara said Tank 104, as well as tanks 101 to 103, has doubtful or untested integrity.

Muña said CUC reprogrammed within its budget $150,000 for immediate deliverables and consultancy work for stipulated order 2.

To date, the obligated expenses include a $47,003 payment for consultant Knight Enterprises Inc., and $15,145 for EA Science & Technology.

CUC was able to beat the May 9 deadline for submitting a Health and Safety Plan. Its two consultants have six other deliverables by June 9, including power plants 1, 2 and 3 work plans, assessment of CUC pipeline corrosion control and report, a CUC pipeline integrity testing work plan, a comprehensive schedule of work, and a tank system integrity testing.

The other deliverables will be performed by CUC, with deadlines from June 9 to Sept. 8.

Muña said CUC's challenges include manpower shortage. Sixteen additional staffers, for example, are needed at Power Plant 1 for proper plant operation and maintenance. He said CUC lost a lot of time due to the massive efforts required in stabilizing Saipan's power supply.

CUC's 19-page April 9 status report on stipulated order 1 also shows that a lot of the items have not been completed.

Muña also briefed PUIC members about the preferred stock memorandum of agreement recently signed between CUC and the Commonwealth Development Authority.

REBATES

From Page 1

finances, said the government cannot hold back on taxpayers' rebates.

"It's their money…It's the only way to give people confidence in the system," Inos said in an interview at yesterday's opening of the 2nd Annual Pacific Mayors Conference at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

He said the administration has made sure there's money in the rebate trust account, but the exact amount in the account has yet to be determined as of yesterday.

"We may be able to start mailing out the checks by June 15," added Inos, a former Secretary of the Department of Finance.

The administration expects the tax rebate releases to have a positive effect on local consumers and struggling businesses.

A 41-year-old father of two said once he and his wife get their joint tax rebate, they would have pocket money for their long-awaited vacation. He said in previous years, he and his wife would receive $600 to $700 in tax rebate.

"We haven't had a vacation in three years, and the tax rebate would be a big help," he said.

In 2008, taxpayers began receiving their 2007 tax rebates in the mail in August.

Villagomez, Santos couple face civil contempt

The federal court yesterday ordered former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos to explain why they should not be held in civil contempt for violating a court order that directed them to cooperate with the U.S. Probation Office.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson commanded Villagomez and the Santos couple to appear in court on June 4 at 9am to explain why they should not be held in civil contempt for failing to fully comply with the court's order.

Munson said he gave an oral order last April 24 directing the three to report to and cooperate fully with the U.S. Probation Office.

The cooperation includes submitting to a personal interview and signing all consent and waiver forms necessary for the Probation Office to complete its pre-sentence report.

Apparently, the defendants failed to comply with the order.

Munson stated, though, that if the court is notified by the U.S. Probation Office before 11:30am on Monday, May 18, 2009, that the defendants have signed all necessary forms and that the personal interview has started, this hearing will be canceled without a further court order.

Last April 24, the jurors rendered a guilty verdict against Villagomez, and the Santos couple for conspiracy to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery. Their sentencing was set for July 28, 2009.

Villagomez subsequently filed motions seeking a new trial and to disqualify U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson from any further proceedings in the case. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

Olongapo mayor: Guam can take a cue from our city's experience

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Olongapo City Mayor James Gordon Jr. says Guam can take a cue from the experience the province of Zambales went through in terms of hosting a U.S. military base.

Gordon is one of eight mayors from four provinces in the Philippines who are attending the Second Annual Pacific Mayors' Conference being held at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa.

"We would like to take a major part in this effort because we can share our knowledge in what kind of jobs are needed," said Gordon.

He said Olongapo City would be ready for any kind of jobs.

"In fact, we just created the Task Force Guam and we will have about 8,000 manpower that will be available,' he said.

Gordon said that both areas would benefit from these cooperative efforts, including exchanges in other forms like in areas of marine life.

"We can learn from them on how they will manage their clean waters and beaches," he said.

Gordon said efforts to make the waters and beaches in Olongapo and the whole province of Zambales clean has been on top of their priorities, especially with the increasing volume of tourism.

Another mayor from Zambales who is present for the conference is Wilma Billman of Castillejos town.

Mayors from the province of Batangas are Eulalio Alilio of Lemery, Marissa Reyes of Balete, Michael Montenegro of Taal, and Epifanio Sandoval of San Nicolas.

Sandoval and Montenegro said they are here to promote the eco-tourism industries in their municipalities. Both also attended the first conference in Guam last year.

"Our town is the heart of tourism in Batangas. Right now we just opened a state school that offers courses in construction, welding maintenance and electrical technology. With this we can provide employment for our people," Sandoval said.

He said both Taal and San Nicolas towns can participate in an exchange program with Guam, especially for the upcoming military buildup.

The vice mayor of San Pedro, Laguna, also arrived with the total of 12 delegates, including some councilors.

Another mayor arriving today from Hagonoy, Bulacan, is Donato Marcos.

This would bring the total delegation from the Philippines to 30, including six from Batangas, eight from Bulacan, four from Zambales and 12 from Laguna.

The largest U.S. naval military base outside the U.S. mainland was formerly located in Subic Bay but it was phased out in 1991 after the Philippine Senate rejected to extend the 1947 military bases agreement.

The eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, also in 1991, left the naval facility in ruins, along with the Clark Air Base in Angeles, Pampanga.

Both have been converted to the Clark Freeport and Subic Bay Freeport that now employ over 100,000 workers.

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Man'amko to hold mini pool, dart tournament

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

To make them more physically active and mentally alert, the *man'amko* yesterday got their latest sport equipment, an electronic dart board complete with accessories from Pacific Amusement Inc. for an upcoming mini tournament.

The company had already donated in the past a pool table, pool sticks and other billiard accessories to the center.

PAI operations manager James Gebhard personally delivered the equipment during a simple ceremony yesterday afternoon at the Office on Aging.

The *man'amko*, along with acting director Rose Mondala, special adviser Juan San Nicolas and Aging Center coordinator Walter Manglona issued a certificate of appreciation to Gebhard for his countless contribution to the center.

In a statement, the Office on Aging said that Gebhard has devoted a lot of his time to maintain the pool table.

Gebhard has also committed to donate another pool table next week.

"Acting director Rose Mondala was very appreciative and excited when she heard the great news," said Manglona.

He said the *man'amko* will be forming several teams to compete in the billiards and darts tournament before the end of May in connection with the celebration of Older Americans Month.

Gebahrd will be sponsoring the trophies for the winning teams.

Manglona said they are also anticipating other games in the coming days and that Gebhard has expressed full support for these activities.

The *man'amko* had just finished their Ground Golf Tournament with senior citizens from Rota and Tinian.

The *man'amko* are preparing for next week's Conference on Aging on May 22 and the King and Queen Coronation ball on May 29.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Seen in this photo are, from left, Office on Aging acting director Rose Mondala, *Man'amko* vice chairperson Carmen Taitano, Pacific Amusement Inc. operations manager James Gebhard, *Man'Amko* King Felipe Santiago and client Manuel Mesa.

Labor sued for denying request for more time to seek employer

An alien worker has brought the Department of Labor to court after her request for more time to find a new employer was denied, allegedly even when she already has found an employer.

Paulina A. Ramos, through counsel Stephen C. Woodruff, asked the Superior Court to set aside Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas' decision that affirmed the Labor administrative hearing officer's order that denied her request for extension.

Ramos asked the court to set a briefing schedule for processing her appeal.

Labor requires displaced foreign national workers to register with the Labor Division of Employment Services and allows them 30 days to find new employers.

Labor's policy and practice allow for an extension of time to transfer if the alien worker shows sufficient grounds to justify it.

According to Ramos' complaint for judicial review, she was unable to find a new employer within the 30-day period and, on Oct. 23, 2008, she submitted a request for extension.

Between the time of her Oct. 23, 2008, submission and receipt of Labor's response to that request almost two weeks later, Ramos found an employer who wanted to hire her. The prospective employer completed the required Employment Intent Form.

Woodruff stated that apparently solely on t he ground that it was one of three "identical form requests," on Nov. 5, 2008, a Labor hearing officer issued an administrative order denying the extension request and ordered Ramos to make arrangements for her repatriation.

On Nov. 18, 2008, Ramos appealed the administrative order to the Labor Secretary. Ramos' appeal brought to the Secretary's attention that she has a prospective employer and included a copy of the EIF.

On March 17, 2009, the Labor Secretary affirmed the administrative order.

Woodruff said the form of the signature on this document suggests it was actually signed by someone other than San Nicolas. Accordingly, Woodruff said, the March 17 order is not valid.

This document, the lawyer pointed out, purports to affirm a denial of extension of time to transfer and further purports to order Ramos to "report to Labor Enforcement within 10 days of the date of this order for repatriation processing" and to "depart the CNMI within seven days of the delivery of the repatriation ticket."

Woodruff asserted that the portion of the order directing the worker to report to Labor Enforcement within 10 days "for repatriation processing" is void as it derogates Ramos' right to judicial review.

He said the portion of the order ordering the worker to depart the CNMI is void as it is outside Labor's authority and a usurpation of the authority of Immigration.

The Secretary's order, Woodruff said, gives no hint that the Secretary even read Ramos' appeal. "It makes no mention of the fact that plaintiff had an employer and that a completed EIF had been included in the appeal documents," Woodruff said.

Instead, the lawyer said, the Secretary summarily and arbitrarily affirmed the denial of the requested extension of time with the bald declarations that "extension of time to transfer is not a matter of right." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Religious courses in PSS curriculum sparks debate

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A proposal to include religious courses in the Public School System's curriculum sparked debate at the Board of Education yesterday, following a recommendation by the board's Committee on Instruction and Curriculum.

Based on PSS policy 2510, no religious course credits can be accepted by public schools, even as electives.

Board vice chair Herman T. Guerrero said it is the board's responsibility to maintain the integrity of the system, separating its function from that of the religious sector.

CIA committee chair Tanya King disclosed that the recommendation was a result of "valid concerns" raised by the private schools' representative that many transferees from private schools may not complete their graduation requirements because they are short on credits.

The board changed the graduation requirements from 21 credits to 28 in 2006.

This year will be the first batch of graduates to be affected by this amendment.

Yesterday, it was proposed that any religious courses be accepted as elective credits for graduating students who need to have 28 credits to graduate.

Private schools such as Mount Carmel School, Grace Christian Academy and Marianas Baptist Academy are just among the schools that have a strong religious curriculum.

'Troubling'

"Why do we need to push for it? What's the motive? The standards and benchmarks are the guiding force for PSS…and it will be very troubling if religion is included in it," Guerrero told the board, adding that it's the board's goal to maintain the integrity of the benchmarks and standards.

For board member Galvin Deleon Guerrero, "inconsideration" to the plight of students is in contrast to what the board and the system say about putting "Student First."

"It's like penalizing students for the decision made by their parents when they transferred to public schools because of the bad economy," he said.

Guerrero maintained his opposition to the proposal.

"Although we're both serving public and non-public schools, I don't want to see this board being driven by the private schools' interest. Their transfer to public schools was the choice made by their parents," he said.

He said the board will be crossing a threshold if it gives in to this matter.

Guerrero urged members to think creatively. "Why don't we just give an examination to these students instead of accepting the religious courses to become elective credits for them? We should think outside the box before we come up with such a proposal that I personally feel would bring us more trouble," he said.

Board chair Lucy Blanco Maratita said approving the proposal will expose the board to a "legal battle."

"What if the student's religious course was from India?" she asked.

Blanco-Maratita asked Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan to come up with more "analysis" and "inputs" on the issue with PSS stakeholders.

Sablan admitted that PSS has yet to know the number of students who may be affected or are being affected at present. She promised to conduct more deliberations on the issue to come up with "more rational" solution.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to our princess, Loutricia Santos, who is celebrating her 7th birthday today, May 15! Hope you enjoy your day and may you have many more birthdays to come! Loving you always Mommy, Daddy and the family! Greetings also come from LJ, Louie Boy and the rest of the Onio family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Birthday Auntie Betsy Palacios. We hope you enjoy your day! From Loutrica and the family!

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Sablan frets over delay in OGA suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rep. Tina Sablan is disappointed that her Open Government Act lawsuit against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Finance Secretary Eloy Inos has been postponed due to their lawyer's request for a continuance.

Braddock J. Huesman cited business and medical reasons in his request to put off the hearing.

Sablan appeared in court without a counsel. A new government lawyer who is not quite familiar with the lawsuit came for the defendants.

Huesman is currently off-island. He was reportedly set to argue before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals last Tuesday. He is also expected to be off-island for medical reason between May 25 to 29.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman reset the hearing to June 4 at 1:30pm.

Sablan

Sablan said yesterday that there has already been a considerable delay in the case and questioned why they have to wait for Huesman.

"I don't agree that it is only Huesman who can represent [Fitial and Inos] in this case," the lawmaker said.

Sablan pointed out that acting Attorney General Gregory Baka, who is familiar with the case, could also appear in court in the absence of Huesman.

Under the OGA, Sablan said, she is entitled to a speedy proceeding.

The lawmaker also questioned why of the 34 items listed on the "privilege log" there was no mention about the law firm's communication with Fitial or the administration regarding the lawsuit against federalization.

In addition, Sablan said, the account number that Baka provided her as the source of funding for the federalization lawsuit does not exist.

She said she is not sure whether or not it was an honest mistake by Baka.

Wiseman said he would direct the government to clarify which account it is referring to. The judge said he is trying his best to accommodate Sablan's request to speed up the proceedings in this case.

Wiseman earlier ordered Sablan and the lawyer for Fitial and Inos to be prepared at the hearing yesterday to discuss the enumerated items listed on the "privilege log" and to what extent the OGA restricts the release of those documents.

At the April 9, 2009, hearing on Sablan's request for production of documents, Huesman objected to producing three documents: the letter engaging the services of a Washington D.C. law firm, billing documents and statements sent to the CNMI for the 903 litigation (lawsuit against federalization), and payments made by the CNMI to attorneys representing the 903 litigation.

On April 14, Wiseman ordered Fitial and Inos to produce within seven days all of Sablan's requested documents, except the three that Huesman refused to hand over.

The judge further ordered Fitial and Inos to file a privilege log with the court within 10 days. Huesman subsequently filed the privilege log.

Sablan sued Fitial and Inos to compel the administration to disclose where it is getting the money to fund the lawsuit against federalization.

Huesman argued that forcing the CNMI to release sensitive information that the federal government is not entitled to contravenes the purpose of a statute that deals with litigation exceptions to the OGA.

Man arrested for alleged sexual abuse of a minor at Tank Beach

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona imposed yesterday a $12,000 cash bail on a 21-year-old man who allegedly had sex with a teenaged girl at Tank Beach.

The court previously set a $50,000 cash bail for Manuel Sotto Cabrera Jr.'s temporary liberty but Manglona reduced this to $12,000 cash.

Manglona set the preliminary hearing for May 21 at 9am.

Cabrera was taken to court after police arrested him Wednesday afternoon on charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the second and third degrees.

Detective Vincent S. Mareham stated in his report that last April 21 the Department of Public Safety received a report about a sexual abuse of a minor case.

Mareham said that during an interview with a police officer at the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room, the victim, a 14-year-old girl, stated that Cabrera picked her up from her house and they proceeded to Tank Beach.

The girl said she and Cabrera ended up having sex at the beach.

Mareham said when police interviewed Cabrera at DPS last May 1, the defendant admitted he kissed the girl and touched her breast. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 15, 2000

No abortion at CHC

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez has said that no abortion will be performed at the Commonwealth Health Center unless the CNMI court says otherwise. Despite a legal opinion that says that any woman may obtain an abortion in the Northern Marianas, Villagomez maintained that the lone hospital on the island will strictly adhere to a provision of the Commonwealth Constitution that prohibits such practice. "We will continue to aggressively address this issue based on the CNMI Constitution—that no abortion will be carried out here," he said.

Cholera warning raised in FSM

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez has advised travelers going to Federated States of Micronesia, especially Pohnpei, to take the necessary precautionary measures with the outbreak of cholera in the neighboring island. Mr. Villagomez urged travelers coming from Pohnpei and other FSM jurisdictions who are experiencing symptoms such as profuse watery diarrhea or leg cramps for the last five days to immediately visit the Commonwealth Health Center for medical attention The cholera outbreak was reported by the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association to which Mr. Villagomez is currently president.

MAY 15, 2001

Businessmen want minimum wage raised to $4.50 an hour

Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Anthony Pellegrino yesterday raised the possibility of scrapping the nonresident workers' fringe benefit and replacing it with a higher minimum wage of at least $4.50 per hour. In an interview yesterday, the chamber president urged the government to explore the possibility of raising the minimum wage, while eliminating other benefits like free housing, meals and plane fare extended to guest workers. Pellegrino believes such a formula would level the playing field between resident and nonresident workers, and in a way stimulate the entry of more locals into the Commonwealth's labor force.

Over 1,000 qualified voters remain unregistered

The Board of Election yesterday complained of difficulties in reaching more than 1,000 unregistered voters in the Northern Marianas, as the November general elections draws near. Executive director Greg Sablan disclosed that despite appeals made by the election board urging unregistered voters to go out and be listed for the upcoming polls, only a handful had so far surfaced to register. Mr. Sablan said extensive education programs have been underway to inform the public of the ongoing registration. However, school visitation yielded only a handful of registrants. The election official said some students came prepared to register but a big number reportedly stayed away from deputized election officers despite earlier notification of the scheduled registration activities.

MAY 15, 2002

Moves to unseat Manglona loom

In what could prove precarious to Senate President Paul A. Manglona, moves are afoot right now at the upper chamber to unseat him, with Saipan and Tinian senators teaming up to form a new leadership bloc in the Senate. In a coup that has the 13th Legislature in an uproar, disaffected senators from both the Tinian and Saipan delegations--with the exception of Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano--have agreed to team up to form the Senate's new leadership, with Tinian senator Jose Dela Cruz being groomed as the new Senate President. According to Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero, the proposed Senate leadership would be composed of Dela Cruz, David M. Cing, Pete P. Reyes, Thomas P. Villagomez and himself. The Senate, a nine-member body, only needs five senators to comprise the majority.

…and Manglona has one vote to blame

One vote was all it took for Senate President Paul A. Manglona to put himself in a position that could lose him the Senate presidency. In particular, Manglona's decision to change his vote from supporting to rejecting the nomination of former senator Edward U. Maratita to the Commonwealth Development Authority's board of directors was viewed by some senators as a betrayal of the Rota delegation and a sign of weakness. "The commotion on Monday was a classic example and it was more than enough to justify [my sentiments] that I cannot go on being part of this leadership when I know that our President is not only a traitor but he's [also] a weak President," said Sen. David M. Cing.

Congratulations on the grand opening of your Joeten Kagman Market.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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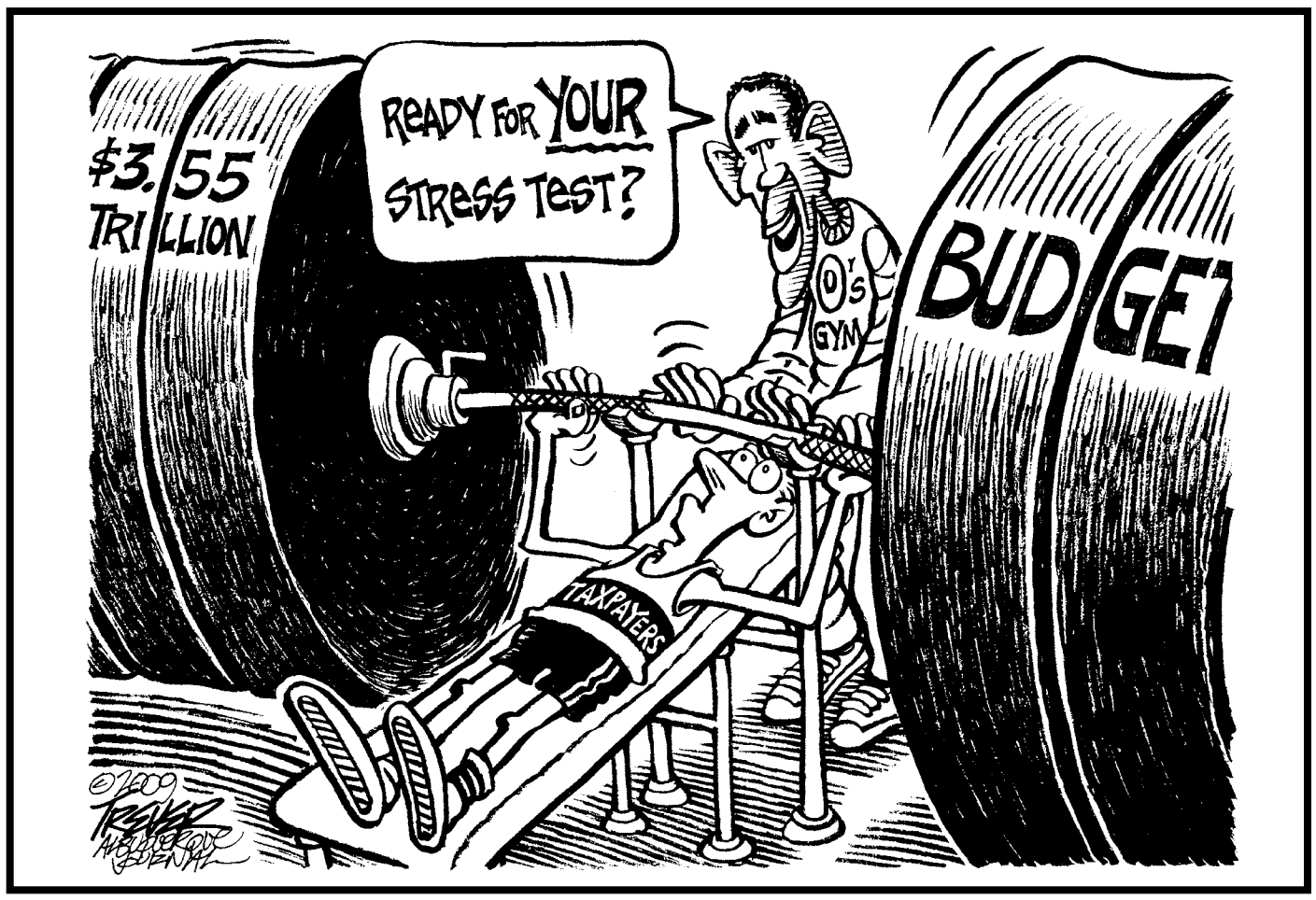


EDITORIAL

Politics and the pope

Pope Benedict XVI set out on a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land but quickly encountered an earthly reality: Politics are inescapable in the contested lands that gave birth to Judaism, Islam and Christianity. While the pontiff's speeches are laced with appeals for unity and hope, his divided audiences hear language that is too tepid for their taste—or too strong, depending on the camp. He preaches peace in an embattled terrain and compassion to those who are in no mood to compromise.

Israelis and Palestinians deserve "peace in a homeland of their own, within secure and internationally recognized borders," Benedict said on his arrival. He was simply reiterating Vatican support for a two-state solution that Israel and the Palestinians once embraced. Today, the new government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu apparently no longer does, and the Palestinian leadership is divided. Israel's chief rabbis responded later that Benedict should spread the message that the Jewish people deserve to live in the land of Israel.

A religious interfaith dialogue at Notre Dame Church in Israel on Monday broke down when Palestinian cleric and chief of the Islamic courts Taysir Tamimi seized the microphone to tell Benedict that he must press Israel to halt its aggression against Palestinians in Gaza. "I call on you in the name of the one God to condemn these crimes," Tamimi said. And, as history is never far from the present in the Holy Land, he reminded the pope that the Muslim sultan Saladin, the 12th century ruler who recaptured Jerusalem from the Crusaders, upheld religious freedom for Catholics.

The pope hastily left the forum. The chief rabbinate said it would boycott the rest of the event if Tamimi remained. And so it has gone.

Benedict had hoped to repair the Catholic Church's relations with Muslims and Jews, damaged when he gave a speech linking the prophet Muhammad to violence and lifted the excommunication of a Holocaust-denying bishop. Still, many Israelis felt that his commemoration of Holocaust victims fell short, and Palestinians sought a fuller condemnation of the Israeli occupation of lands captured in 1967. Meanwhile, during a special Mass at Gethsemane Church, beneath the Mount of Olives, Benedict sought to reassure Christians, who have been fleeing their ancient communities in droves, that there is "room for everyone" in the Holy Land.

Things don't promise to get any easier for the pope Wednesday. He is scheduled to visit a Palestinian refugee camp in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, which is cut off from Jerusalem now by a cement and metal barrier—a monument to the difficulties of reconciliation in the Holy Land.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

What we don't know about Iraq

By PHILIP BENNETT
Special to The Washington Post

Philip Bennett is a former managing editor of The Washington Post.

What do Iraqis call the war that is now entering its seventh year?

If you can't answer that question, it's not because you haven't been paying attention. In this country, the Iraq war has been an American story. It was born inside the Beltway. Its costs in suffering have been most visible to us at gravesides across the United States, or in the wards of Walter Reed. A growing library of histories of the war chronicles battle after bitter battle between factions of official Washington, skirmishing over ideas, strategy, about how we got in and how to get out.

As the war has gone on, Iraqis' stories have been overshadowed by the towering drama of our own experience. The imbalance struck me as I recently read and revisited some of the best books to grow out of American journalism on Iraq since the invasion began on March 19, 2003. They are rich in raw, unblinking dispatches from alongside U.S. troops and investigative digging into the thinking of U.S. leaders—overall, a remarkable record of a continuing conflict. But they also reflect how frustration and isolation, including the isolation of journalists, have reduced Iraqis to a narrow cast of supporting roles: ungrateful partners, untrustworthy supplicants, invisible enemies and unreadable victims.

With U.S. forces set to withdraw from Iraq over the next 18 months, does it matter that we know so little about how Iraqis have understood and lived through the war? The invisible connection between the overlapping experiences of Americans and Iraqis—and the blame, estrangement and hatred that has choked the air between them—impairs our ability to see what happens next. It also means that as U.S. officials apply the lessons of the Iraq war to strategy in Afghanistan, they risk missing a central part of the story.

Thomas Ricks' new book, "The Gamble," shows how difficult it is to line up Iraqi and American views of the conflict, and of each other. In a sequel to his best-selling "Fiasco," Ricks, formerly The Post's chief Pentagon reporter, provides an insider account of how Gen. David Petraeus resurrected the Iraq war from a seemingly lost cause in 2006 to the more stable military situation it is today. At the heart of Petraeus' success against insurgents, Ricks writes, is the general's determination, with the help of 30,000 additional U.S. troops, to win over the Iraqi population, to demonstrate that "the people are the prize."

It's a powerful case. Yet there are scarcely any Iraqis at the center of Petraeus' world (or in "The Gamble," whose "cast of characters" lists just two: Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and the Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr). The general's "eclectic" brain trust includes a British pacifist and an Australian counterinsurgency ace—but no Iraqis. (His translator and personal liaison to the Iraqi government is Sadi Othman, a Palestinian born in Brazil and raised in Jordan). The tribal leaders who are converted from enemies to allies—and lend their 100,000 fighters to the anti-al-Qaida cause—are presented as unknowable archetypes. U.S. commanders and soldiers report a warming of Iraqi hearts and minds and credit the change to the U.S. approach, but we have to take their word for the depth of this transformation. We don't know firsthand what Iraqis ultimately make of the surge and whether the stability it has brought will help build a new nation or just an express lane for the American exit.

There's nothing unusual about American journalists focusing on Americans at war, especially on military and civilian leaders weighing truths and consequences for millions of lives. You have to read deep into the Library of America's 1,700-page anthology, "Reporting Vietnam," before Vietnamese civilians or insurgents step out of the chorus and become individual subjects. In Iraq, chasms of language and culture have affected those chronicling the war as much as those fighting it. At the same time, there have been strong incentives to excavate the facts about the Washington end of the war. Not least has been some reporters' and editors' motivation to go back and do the job of holding the government accountable in ways that were missing, and might have mattered, before the war started.

The depth and drama of several journalists' books about Washington at war have given them heightened impact, beyond the good reporting in newspapers and magazines that preceded them. Bob Woodward's trilogy on the Bush White House, followed last year by a fourth book, "The War Within," extracted from the secretive administration scene after damning scene of a government's rush to disaster. Copies of "Fiasco" and "Cobra II," by Michael Gordon and Bernard Trainor, seemed to be standard issue in officers' quarters across Iraq. In "Imperial Life in the Emerald City," his devastating 2006 portrait of the Green Zone, The Post's Rajiv Chandrasekaran wrote the definitive account of the early phase of the occupation, corrupted by ideology, incompetence and arrogance.

From the first days of the invasion, however, correspondents struggled to construct a common narrative for Iraqis and Americans. "The most important struggles were the ones going on inside the minds of Iraqis and Americans alike," wrote George Packer of the New Yorker in "The ASSASSINS' Assassin's Gate," published in 2005. "The war's meaning would be the sum of all the ways that all of them understood one another and the events that had thrust them together." Packer's book, reported mostly in 2003 and 2004, shows how the story might have looked. His accounts of Iraqis reveal the things they carried, including their "psychological demolition" under Saddam Hussein's tyranny and their disorientation after the invasion. He got close to some Iraqis who professed a "middle level of mind"—a moderate space between religious and secular certainties—that seemed to promise an alternative national identity. But it was not a hope, or line of inquiry, that would hold.

See WHAT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

When the world is right

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

One of my favorite stories goes like so: A father was trying to relax on a lazy Sunday morning, but as sipped his coffee and read the newspaper his rambunctious young son kept pestering him for attention.

One page of the newspaper has a large ad that featured an image of the globe. So the father ripped out this page, and then ripped the page into a number of pieces.

He handed the pieces to his kid.

"Here," said father to son, "is a puzzle for you to put together." He figured that would keep the kid quiet for a long time, given that the kid was too young to have studied geography yet.

So the father was surprised when, just 10 minutes later, the kid presented him with the paper taped together, and the globe had been correctly reconstituted.

"How did you figure that out?" asked the father.

"Well, the other side of the page had what looked like a man on it," the son answered, "and, though I don't know the details about the globe, I know what a person looks like. So I put together the side with the person, since I know that if the man is right, the world is right."

That tale came to me from W. Clement Stone (who was a famous and wealthy insurance magnate when I was a kid). I heard him speak in my church when I was really young. He was co-author of one of my favorite books, *Success Through a Positive Mental Attitude*. The book was copyrighted before I was born, but Mr. Stone was a very big deal where I lived. Not that my attitude is worth a darn, but, well, my lousy attitude doesn't dilute the virtue of the tale.

The same advice came in more succinct terms from Descartes: "Conquer yourself, not the world."

No matter which flavor of this wisdom you prefer, I'll admit that it's not fashionable. These days, we're supposed to worry ourselves into neurosis by inventing dictates about how the entire world should behave. But I'm with Messrs. Stone and Descartes on this one. There's nothing I can do about fixing the world, so I might as well invest my efforts into trying to fix up myself.

Since I secretly suspect that I'm a slug by nature, Mr. Stone's motivational advice was often the critical motivator behind me getting off my lazy, daydreaming duff and actually getting things done. Eventually, I held enough promise that my mother decided they might just make a presentable gentlemen out of me yet, my slug-like nature having been masked by my devotion to Mr. Stone's wisdom, and she enrolled me in social dancing school. I was junior high school age.

Social dancing wasn't as horrible as it sounds, really. A coat and tie bugged me less then than it does now. It was sort of like a boot camp for manners, and though I was, at the time, the absolute worst right wing on my ice hockey team, I still maintained the minimal grace not to stomp on anyone's foot.

The class spanned two years. During the second year, one of the girls who I took a liking to told me that her mother wanted to meet me. Her mom then invited me out for ice cream, so the three of us strolled to the ice cream place and everyone had a chat. I sort of felt like an amoeba under a microscope, but the lady was actually very nice, and the third degree was tactful.

It turns out that the lady was none other than Donna Stone, Mr. Stone's daughter, and a noted philanthropist in her own right (and she was a real philanthropist, not some snotty ice queen). So, I dated her daughter, which is to say, Mr. Stone's grand daughter (adopted, actually) and eventually wound up getting an invitation to Mr. Stone's estate for dinner. He was already an idol of mine, and I worried myself sick over the big event and gave myself a stomach aches for a week. But Mr. Stone was so charming that dinner was, in spite of my initial nerves, very pleasant.

Anyway, I seldom pull his book from its nook, since it's very old and the pages are falling out. But today seemed like a good time to take a look at it. I don't know why.

Just because, I guess.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for nothing!

I am writing this letter as I am very disappointed and concerned over the matter of the upcoming 2009 Adult Basic Education program graduation. Because ABE program is under the umbrella of Northern Marianas College, we were informed that our graduation will take place on Saipan and we would have to travel there to participate on Saturday May 23, 2009. Not being able to obtain our high school diploma, we were all very excited and happy to be a part of the ceremony with other CNMI ABE students as this is our optimal goal: to finally be able to accomplish something in our lives that we were not able to achieve while we were in high school.

We decided to write to our Rota Delegation and Rota Municipal Council, requesting for assistance for air transportation, ground transportation and hotel accommodation for that event. To our dismay, we never received a response from any of them. I realize that our economy is in a crisis at this time but it would be nice to hear from one of our leaders, at least to acknowledge our accomplishment and extend their apology if they are unable to provide assistance in any way.

Well, we never did get a response from any of them and it hurts. It makes us question their sincerity and their priorities as public servants. I had always thought that education is their main priority; yes, we are no longer in high school or college students but we are accomplishing an important form of education, one that will enable us to acquire employment or maybe even enter another level of education. This is our time to shine and we believe that all 25 of us deserve to be recognized for our achievement.

Now, we have been informed that we will be having out graduation on island today, May 15, because there is no funding to enable us to join the ABE graduates on Saipan. This situation makes us feel alienated, discriminated and unimportant. Could it be that we are not considered important by our leaders because it is just an Adult Basic Education graduation and not Rota High School 12th grade graduation? I thought education is the same at any time. Thank you delegates and council members for your BIG help!

Damian Toves
Rota

A preference for qualified on-island applicants

I was reading the article with respect to Senate President Pete Reyes "disappointment" with the Zoning Board's decision to recruit an outside applicant for the vacant administrator position.

Just to share my take on this issue, I too would be very "disappointed" should the Board go ahead and bypass Mr. Pete A. Tenorio for the vacant Administrator position who I know is more than qualified and also has the edge, having been born and raised here.

No offense to Mr. Barrett who I believe is more than qualified for the position, but resorting to such action is only fair if any applicant who has made the CNMI their home or is a resident is not qualified. Mr. Tenorio's background relating to our Covenant agreement as well as our economic climate and CNMI laws makes him more than suitable and qualified for the position.

Vacant positions should be awarded to qualified applicants, and I will support any decision granting a position to an outside applicant if, and only if none of the on-island applicants qualify for the position.

Like the Senate president himself said, "It's very insulting for qualified people like Mr. Tenorio to be chosen over those who are from outside of CNMI." We want a qualified individual to oversee and man a very controversial office and I believe that Mr. Tenorio's broad experience and knowledge, having served as a Lt. Governor and Washington Representative, more than qualifies him for the position and will be a asset for Zoning.

If no one from here applied in the first place or is/are not qualified, then by all means I will support the board's decision regardless of where Mr. Barrett is from as long as he is qualified for the position. One thing is for sure, credit should be extended to outside applicants for their interest in improving and being a part of the CNMI family. And I am encouraging and inviting all interested individuals to compete in pursuing their dreams/goals, whether they are from here or not. This practice will motivate our people to broaden their knowledge and skills in this very competitive era.

Rep. Raymond Palacios
Capital Hill, Saipan

Weaseling out

I absolutely, fully (how much more forcefully can I put it?) agree with the statement "Juan T. Guerrero separately said the parties in the ongoing court proceedings are way past the negotiation stage." They diddled around and stalled and stalled until now, when the rubber is finally going to meet the road they want to weasel out, a tactic they are masters of, except this time it is not going to work. Tough, boys! I could easily find the money to pay the Fund by simply trimming the bloat from the government, something the administration does not have the guts to do. Go get 'em, Ken!

Frank Oliver
Sahuarita, AZ

WHAT

From Page 10

It's now clear that we owe an enormous gap in our understanding of Iraq to the violence unleashed in early 2004, when kidnappings and beheadings, hundreds of suicide bombings and street fighting forced Western reporters to end the serendipitous, daily contact with Iraqis that had produced the most telling stories. As The Washington Post's foreign editor at the time, I started asking fewer questions about our coverage and constant questions about our reporters' safety. The media withdrew into armed convoys and hid behind blast walls, or abandoned the country altogether (The Post and others stayed). As Dexter Filkins of The New York Times, who emerged in those years as the premier combat journalist of his generation, wrote: "Iraq disappeared for us then, and it never came back."

In his 2008 book, "The Forever War," Filkins writes that there "were always two conversations in Iraq, the one Iraqis were having with the Americans and the one they were having with themselves." The exceptions in nearly every book are the conversations—complex, edgy, intimate—between correspondents and their Iraqi translators, drivers and guards. These relationships aren't simple; they are layered with suspicions, conflicting loyalties and the tension that comes from putting your life in the hands of someone you don't completely understand. But they also carry the mutual debt of shared experience. And, for the most part, they work.

Today, Iraqis are the anonymous authors of their own history. As the U.S. withdraws, the course of "Iraqification" will depend partly on how Iraqis reveal and resolve their own versions of the last six years. American journalists should once again take up the mission of reporting their stories as increasing security makes that possible. Public interest in these stories may have disappeared, but their importance hasn't. The lessons of the Iraq war, including making "the people the prize," are now migrating under Petraeus' command to Afghanistan, another country of strangers.

Anthony Shadid, The Post's Baghdad correspondent, tells me that Iraqis have called the war by different names over the past six years: ghazu or "invasion"; sometimes "the events"; occasionally "sectarian war"; and most often, and most hauntingly, suqut—simply "the collapse."

Shadid's 2005 book, "Night Draws Near," remains the richest attempt I've read to track the journeys of Shiite and Sunni Iraqis, farmers and doctors, insurgents and agnostics through the ambiguous terrain of their internal conflicts and the war outside. (It's also the only book in my stack that has a photograph of an Iraqi on the cover.) Shadid is back in Iraq after several years away; I hope he revisits these people.

The defining quotation of the Iraq war—"Tell me how this ends"—was posed by David Petraeus to Rick Atkinson of The Post on the road to Baghdad during the invasion. Years later, it has acquired a connotation that Petraeus perhaps didn't intend: Tell me how this ends for us, for the Americans. Re-reading Shadid's book, I came across the Iraqi coda, written on almost the same day in the diary of a 14-year-old girl named Amal Salman: "What's going to be the future of Iraq? Can it be good? No one knows."

Petraeus' question and Amal's are tied together, just as the events of the past six years will forever bind their countries to one another.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

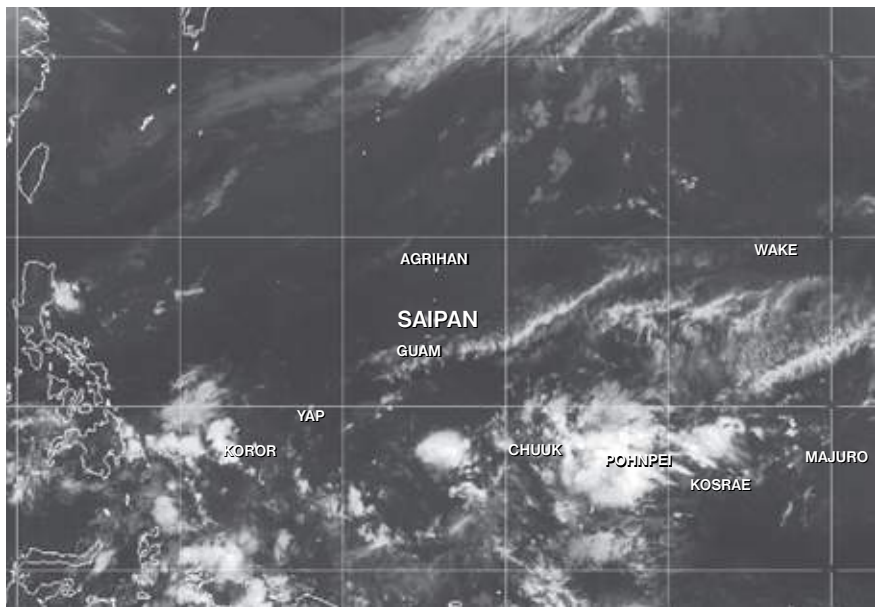
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲83	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲64	▼56
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼52
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼71
London	Rain	▲59	▼45
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼60
Manila	Showers	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲65	▼51
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼76
New York	Thunderstorms	▲74	▼56
Osaka	Cloudy	▲64	▼54
Paris	Rain	▲60	▼46
Pusan	Cloudy	▲68	▼56
Rome	Cloudy	▲76	▼59
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼41
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼52
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼52
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼54
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲76	▼59

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 3N130E to EQ146E. Convergent west winds south of the trough axis are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between the equator and 2N from 134E to 137E. An upper-level trough extends northward from 2N131E to 19N131E. Trade-wind convergence north of the near-equatorial trough is teaming with divergent upper-level winds near and east of the upper-level trough to generate scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Koror and Yap within an area bounded by a line from 10N130E to 8N130E to 6N134E to 10N135E back to 10N130E. Converging winds at the surface are coupling with diverging winds aloft to trigger scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 10N from 150E to 159E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:39 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:08 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
10:12 AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
5:56 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:37 PM	10:27 AM
Saturday		11:17 AM
Sunday	12:15 AM	12:06 PM
Monday	12:52 AM	12:54 PM
Tuesday	1:28 AM	1:43 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

CUC: Proposed lease agreement with CPA still under negotiation

The memorandum of agreement being proposed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. could be far off in the future following admission Wednesday by CUC executive director Antonio Muña that the agency will need more time to fully understand the prior "agreement" that took place when CUC began using a CPA property on Rota.

It was earlier reported that CPA wants a lease agreement with CUC concerning the location of a power plant on Rota that ports officials claim has been sitting on the property for many years now without any benefit to CPA.

"We really need to spend more time in searching on what's really our obligation to CPA in utilizing the property…because I believe that if there was supposed to be some kind of lease agreement it should have been done from the very beginning," Muña told *Saipan Tribune,* adding that after many years of having CUC assets on CPA property, it is only now that a lease agreement is being proposed.

In a letter to Muña, CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho demands that the use of the property be put in writing in a form of memorandum of agreement or a lease between the two agencies. CPA said CUC could also offset CPA's monthly utilities obligation in exchange for the use of the ports property.

On Wednesday, Muña pointed out that "all conditions" must be agreed upon by both parties in an MOU.

"The discussion on the issue is an ongoing process," he said, but he pointed out that "CUC assets have been there since time immemorial" or prior to the creation of CPA.

"So the question now is: To what extent did they have an understanding? Why would anyone award CPA property where CUC assets are in place? Or why were CUC assets allowed to be there on CPA property? Those are important questions that need to be addressed," Muña said, admitting that no document has so far been uncovered to explain the situation. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Rotarians donate to orphanage in Russian city

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Responding to a fundraising campaign by a weekly newspaper in Vladivostok City, the Rotary Club of Saipan has become one of the first international donors to a children's orphanage in a century-old hospital in one of Russia's coldest regions.

Elly Stoilova, the Russian market manager at the Pacific Islands Club and who is also Rotary's Director for Services, said the donation is intended to fix the windows at the hospital, to benefit over 105 kids.

Stoilova said that parents stricken with AIDS have abandoned some of these children, who range from 3 months to 4 years old.

Since the hospital is old, the large windows, including almost all the rooms where the kids are housed, are broken. The government-owned hospital, however, does not have enough funds to fix the dilapidated building.

Stoilova said that it is extremely cold now in Vladivostok and the children are vulnerable to possible illnesses.

Konkurent, one of the largest publications in Vladivostok, spearheaded the fundraiser to fix the windows.

Rotarians on Saipan came into the picture mainly because Stoilova is in close contact with the editor-in-chief of *Konkurent*.

There are about 36 large broken warm windows that need to be repaired.

About 10-12 kids are housed in each room.

"The installation of the windows would keep them from freezing," Stoilova said.

In just two week since *Konkurent* started the fundraiser at the end of April, a total of 18 windows are ready to be installed.

Each window costs $550, excluding the installation expenses.

But Stoilova said a construction company has agreed to do the installation free of charge except for the payment of the windows.

Rotarians on Saipan have committed to subsidize four windows.

PIC also donated one window, one of the first private companies to respond to the fundraising campaign.

"The Rotary is not only helping the local community but it is also trying to help international projects," she said.

She said the club will be included in a new website that *Konkurent* is currently developing.

"It would be a good exposure not only for the Rotary but also for Saipan," she said.

Saipan Rotary is on the way to forging a sister club relation with the Rotary Club of Vladivostok, whose members have already visited the CNMI twice.

For PIC, Stoilova said the resort is just giving back to the Russian market, one of the most promising markets for Saipan. She said this is also a chance for a bigger publicity for the CNMI in Russia.

The next move will be for PIC to donate some toys (PIC mascots) to the children at the orphanage.

"This small of gesture would create a good image of Saipan in the Russian market," she said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Pams Resort hosts Family Fun Night

The Palms on Pau Pau Beach, along with Suave, Dove and Axe, is hosting a Family Fun Night set for May 22nd, at the Palms. This free event starts at 6pm, and will be held at the poolside area.

Part of the celebration will be dedicated to the official opening of the Palm's Observatory. It is the very first observatory, equipped with research quality telescopes, in Micronesia. This will be a wonderful opportunity for families to get out and enjoy Stargazing while learning a little bit about astronomy, and having a good time.

In addition to the telescopes, face painting, treats and snacks will be offered at the poolside area.

For more information about this event, you may call 322-3311. ***(PR)***

Hopwood Family Fun Night today

Hopwood Junior High school will be holding its 2nd Annual Family Fun Night at its Chalan Piao Campus today, May 15, from 5pm to 10pm. The public is invited to come and enjoy the different fun and games, back-to-back entertainment, food, drinks, and other goodies. Bring your family and friends for a special night out. ***(PR)***

MMAC's Team Bodig hosts hot lunch fundraiser tomorrow

The Marianas March Against Cancer's Team Bodig will host a Hot Lunch Fundraising Event tomorrow, May 16, 2009, at the NMI Museum in Garapan (across Sugar King Park).

Team Bodig is inviting the community to support their efforts in raising much needed funds for the battle against cancer by stopping by and purchasing a delicious hot lunch for only $5 each. Luminaries will also be sold for only $5 each. All funds raised remains locally. For more information e-mail Roz Leon Guerrero at rmclguerrero@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Military ID card personnel visit

This is to let all military identification cardholders and all concerned that the 9th Mission Support Command ID Card personnel will be on Saipan to issue new or renewal of Military ID card. They will be at the Army Reserve Center on Saipan on May 18-22, 2009. Their hours are from 8am-6pm.

For any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 664-2650 or Maj. Greg Sablan at the Army Reserve Center at 322-6671. ***(PR)***

Kagman townhall meetings

Townhall meetings at the Kagman Community Center are as follows:

- Saturday, May 16, 10am-12pm: Rosemond Santos
- June: Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios

Other interested candidates may e-mail kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com to schedule their townhall meetings. Listen to the candidates and have them address your concerns. ***(PR)***

Stimulus funding for Kagman

Department of Commerce Secretary Michael Ada will be having a public meeting at the Kagman Community Center on Monday, May 18, at 7pm regarding stimulus funding for the Kagman area. All are invited to share concerns and ask questions. ***(PR)***

MMAC Team Ahu hosts garage sale tomorrow

2009 Marianas March Against Cancer's Team Ahu will be having a garage sale fundraising event tomorrow, May 16, and on Sunday, May 17, 2009, from 8am to 4pm, between Atool Pl. and Benavente's Apartment in As Lito (directional signs will be available).

Team Ahu is inviting the entire community to help support their efforts in raising funds for the battle against cancer by stopping by their garage sale and purchasing various items that will be on sale. There will be signs directing you to the venue. All proceeds raised will go toward the 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer. For more information contact Vivian Taitano at 234-1234 or via email at vtaitano@hyattsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

Kagman High School activities

Attention to parents and guardians of Kagman High School: Progress reports will be distributed on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. The monthly PTSA meeting will be held on this same day, from 6pm to 7pm at the school cafeteria. The meeting will also be held via video teleconferencing for all parents, guardians, staff and students. Parents from Marpi, As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag, and Sadog Tasi can go to GTC Elementary School to attend the meeting. For more information call 237-3840 or 237-3832; fax 664-3788. ***(PR)***

Kagman Elementary calendar of events

- May 15: Early dismissal of students at 12pm, 4th Quarter Mid-Progress report distribution to parents and guardians at 1:30pm-4:30pm.
- May 18-22: PSS Standard Based Assessment Week for the following students in each affected grade levels: 3rd, 4th, 5th grades and also to include CCLHS in 4th grade level. Students attendance is highly encouraged. SBA is from 8am to 10am, Monday-Friday.
- Registration is ongoing for SY 2009-10 for Kinder to 5th grade students. Parents and guardians must provide the following: Birth certificate, health clearance, health insurance, map of their residence, and legal guardianship from the court in order for any student to be registered without the biological parents. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '70 preps for reunion

The first graduates of Marianas High School, the Class of 1970, is gearing up for its 40th class reunion next year, 2010. As a kicker, the group will be having a potluck picnic for all classmates, on Sunday, May 24, at the Carolinian Utt from 9:30am until 4:30pm. A meeting for the last-minute preparation of the picnic will be held on May 14, Thursday, at the Marianas High School conference room, Building H. at 6pm. All classmates are encouraged to attend this very important gathering. For more information, contact any of the following: Pakito, 234-3182/3/4; Potu, 483-6367 or ablascabrera@hotmail.com; or Maggie Camacho, 322-7367/287-6222 or maggieccamacho@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Marianas High School Schedule

- May 15: Advanced Placement Exams
- May 13: 4th Quarter Mid-Progress Report distribution (report will be distributed to students)
- May 18-22: PSS Standards Based Assessment tests
- May 25: No classes (Memorial Day)
- June 11: Graduation ceremony
- June 15: End of 4th Quarter

For questions or concerns contact 237-3206.

Puengin Inetnon next Friday

Puengin Inetnon will resume next Friday, May 22, at 4:30pm-10pm at the Kagman Community Center Parking Lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market for food, drinks, snacks, clothing, arts and crafts. It will be held every government payday Friday. The Kagman Komunidat Association is looking for vendors to sell produce and fish due to popular demand by customers. Other vendors are also invited. Call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

Kagman Flea Market next Saturday

The Kagman Saturday Flea Market will resume next Saturday, May 23, at 8am at the Kagman Community Center Parking Lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. Individuals can sell their used items for only $5 and will be provided with a tent and table. Come and sell your used item at the fastest growing village in the Marianas. Interested individuals can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

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JOHN-GALVIN PLATFORM

‘Compact impact fund cuts due to weak and tainted ties with feds’

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The tandem of former governor Juan N. Babauta and Board of Education member Galvin Deleon Guerrero announced their ticket’s policy platform yesterday, highlighting five key areas on their priority list.

The duo, to run in the Republican Party primary poll next month against the tandem of Heinz Hofscheider and Arnold Palacios, said they’re ready to face and address the multiple challenges of the Commonwealth.

Topping the list are the economy, federal relations, education, utilities, and the Retirement Fund.

Titled “A Vision for the Future,” the platform identifies 12 key areas, with five picked as top of the list.

The two emphasized the need to provide a convenient and fair playing field for doing business in the CNMI.

The revival of the economy, they said, lies on the rebuilding of a productive, working relationship with the federal government.

Babauta and Deleon Guerrero believe the anticipated dramatic reduction in the Compact Impact money to the CNMI is a result of “weak and tainted” ties between the current administration and the federal government.

The proposal to reduce the Compact Impact funds for the Commonwealth from $5.1 million to just $1.9 million next fiscal year was made by the U.S. President in consideration of the 41-percent drop in the number of Freely Associated States citizens who migrated to CNMI, based on the latest U.S. Census.

Babauta, given the chance to return to the island’s chief executive post, vowed to “bring back” the millions of Compact Impact dollars due the CNMI.

He said the Commonwealth has a good chance to win the “battle” for Compact Impact money as this was committed by the U.S. Congress in 1986.

Babauta said the CNMI may gain between $25 million to $30 million a year in Compact Impact funds promised by the U.S. Congress through P.L. 99-39, signed in 1986.

He estimated that for the past 22 years, some $550 million could be provided to the Commonwealth.

Yesterday, Babauta said he can regain the trust of the federal government “without a doubt.”

The tandem also believes that trouble with the Retirement Fund could have been prevented if the central government was serious in its duties and mandates for the people.

Whatever actuarial rate would be decided, the obligation to pay the Fund is a “must” for any employer like the government, they said.

Costly litigation due to court battles could have also been prevented if a settlement of the issue was prioritized.

“However, that’s not the case,” Babauta said.

Mindful of the state of local and global economies and declining government revenues, Babauta and Deleon Guerrero focused much of their platform on initiatives that they said rely less on local government revenue and more on federal funding, public-private partnerships, and nonprofit foundations.

“We must ensure fiscal responsibility, competence, and accountability in government services,” they said.

Other areas covered in their platform include tourism, health care, public safety, the environment, and infrastructure.

March vs cancer organizers ready

Whether it is a family member, friend or neighbor, we all know someone who has been touched by cancer. The Marianas March Against Cancer is one way of recognizing loved ones who are fighting the disease and remembering those who have lost the battle.

At 7pm on May 22, 2009, at the Marianas March Against Cancer event, luminary candles will be lit to honor those who have battled cancer at some point in their lives. The candles will illuminate the field for the entire 12-hour duration of the event.

If you would like to make a $5 donation for a luminary at the 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer, e-mail Kimberly A. Concepcion at kimconcepcion@yahoo.com. You may also contact the numerous teams that are participating in the event. If paying by check, make checks payable to Marianas March Against Cancer. Luminary forms are also available online at www.ccamarianas.org.

The Marianas March Against Cancer is the largest fundraising event in the CNMI that supports cancer education and provides important services to cancer patients.

The event is sponsored by the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-driven organization that ensures that all funds raised are applied locally.

The 2009 MMAC will be held on May 22-23, 2009, from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. ***(PR)***

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2X4X14 - $3.90	2X4X14 - $6.80
2X4X16 - $4.50	2X4X16 - $7.70
2X4X18 - $5.00	2X4X18 - $8.80
2X4X20 - $5.60	2X4X20 - $9.60
2X6X12 - $6.70	2X6X12 - $10.00
2X6X14 - $7.60	2X6X14 - $11.00
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X16 - $13.00
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U09-037T	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	47397	WHITE	ACA-860	8,499	
R09-003B	2007	CAMRY HYBRID	AUTO	16978	SILVER	ABZ-299	25,299	
R09-005F	2006	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	57427	SILVER	ABZ-639	10,999	
GM CARS								
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	23,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
GM VAN								
R09-002F	2005	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	101951	WHITE	BUS-1231	11,399	
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NEWS BRIEFS

Sorensen Media sponsors 2009 MMAC

The 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee announced yesterday that Sorensen Media Group (Power 99/The Kat/ABC7) will become a title sponsor for the 2009 MMAC. Sorensen Media Group has generously donated commercial airtime on Power 99 and The Kat, live studio interviews and commercial airtime on ABC channel 7. The total value of their donation amounts to $16,170.

The 2009 MMAC will be held on May 22-23, 2009, from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. The public is invited to attend this memorable event that honors people who have been touched by cancer. ***(PR)***

Fee waivers for NMC info session participants

Individuals who participate in the Northern Marianas College's free mini-information session will qualify to receive fee waivers for the summer and fall 2009 semesters. These waivers for the application fee and placement test fees represent a savings of about $75 for either semester.

The free mini-information session will take place on Monday, May 18, 2009, in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus, from 5:30pm to 7pm. Individuals interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend this event.

Faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs, as well as counseling, financial aid, and admissions staff will be on hand to answer questions. Other current students will also be speaking about their experiences at NMC.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, hospitality management, and more. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

The free information session is open to everyone, including graduating seniors and their parents, government and private sector employees, international students, and members of the public who are interested in learning more about the programs at NMC. ***(NMC)***

NMC schedules additional English Placement Test

The Northern Marianas College has scheduled an additional English Placement Test date, set for Tuesday, May 19, 2009, from 5pm to 8pm, in Room A-9

No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a $25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions about the Math Placement Test, call Glenn Keaton at the Sciences, Mathematics, Health, & Athletics Department at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1200 or Hera Ogo at Ext. 1212.

Registration for the Summer 2009 semester will start on Wednesday, May 20 and will continue until Friday, May 22. ***(NMC)***

Small island states want shipping services strengthened

Small island states in the Pacific islands region want shipping services strengthened to secure much needed regular services to countries in the group.

A meeting of Ministers for maritime transport in SIS was held yesterday in Tonga mainly to deliberate on the progress made by the Secretariat of Pacific Communities and the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat in improving shipping services to SIS aimed at improving regularity of services and reducing freight costs.

The SIS group at the meeting included Kiribati, Tuvalu, and Nauru, Niue, Marshall Islands, Cook Islands, Palau and Wallis & Futuna and French Polynesia.

The meeting considered the need for various solutions to improve SIS shipping.

Previous SPC Regional Maritime Program reports have recommended a purpose-built vessel donor supplied ship, hub ports and regional shipping commissions to regulate shipping services in different sub-regions of the Pacific. Shipping services are critically important to SIS given the high dependency on imports. ***(SPC)***

Shipping commission eyed for central Pacific

A committee will be set up to prepare a draft framework for the establishment of the Central Pacific Shipping Commission to accommodate regulatory concerns and needs of Pacific small island states in the shipping sector.

The third SIS meeting of Ministers for Maritime Transport discussed the need to set-up a shipping commission for the central Pacific region similar to the Micronesian Shipping Commission (MSC) that regulates the shipping sector in the north Pacific.

The Central Pacific Shipping Commission will be a sub-regional organization that will serve the shipping needs and interests of Nauru, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati, and Tuvalu. This will be in the field of commercial shipping and surface transportation of commercial cargo to and from the ports of the four signatory nations.

The ministers committed to the supply of data and information to SPC and the Pacific Forum Islands Secretariat to ensure the continuation of studies on hub ports and commodity mapping.

In a communiqué that was delivered in Tonga yesterday, the SIS ministers for maritime transport in the Pacific acknowledged the report on the purpose-built donor supplied ship and instructed SPC to review and refine the report to include existing services.

The communiqué also requested that SPC and PIFS investigate new feeder shipping services between Samoa, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Niue and American Samoa. This is similar to the feeder service report "Small Island States feeder shipping service – from Fiji Wallis and Futuna, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Nauru," that was completed in 2007.

The ministers called for another meeting before the end of this year to further discuss issues outlined in their communiqué. ***(SPC)***

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Jun Pan cited for Humanities contributions

The NMI Council for the Humanities honored outgoing board member Herman T. Guerrero at a dinner ceremony Monday evening.

Guerrero, better known as "Jun Pan," was first elected to the Council's board in June 1992 and served until June 2001. He was re-elected to the board in May 2003 and completed his second three-year term last week. He served as the board's chair for seven terms during his 15 years with the Council.

During the ceremony, board and staff members presented Guerrero with a plaque recognizing his many years of dedicated service to the Council and his untiring efforts to foster the humanities in the Commonwealth.

Monday's ceremony was not the first time Guerrero was recognized for his contributions to the humanities.

In 2002 Guerrero was presented the National Humanities Award by President Bill Clinton at a special ceremony in Washington D.C. and last year he was honored for his contributions to preserving CNMI History during the annual Governor's Humanities Awards Ceremony.

Guerrero said he would continue his support of the humanities by strengthening the collaborative relationship between the Council and the Public School System.

The Council is a private, non-profit corporation with 501 (c) (3) tax status established in 1991. It provides a variety of educational initiatives and humanities programs to lifelong learners in the community.

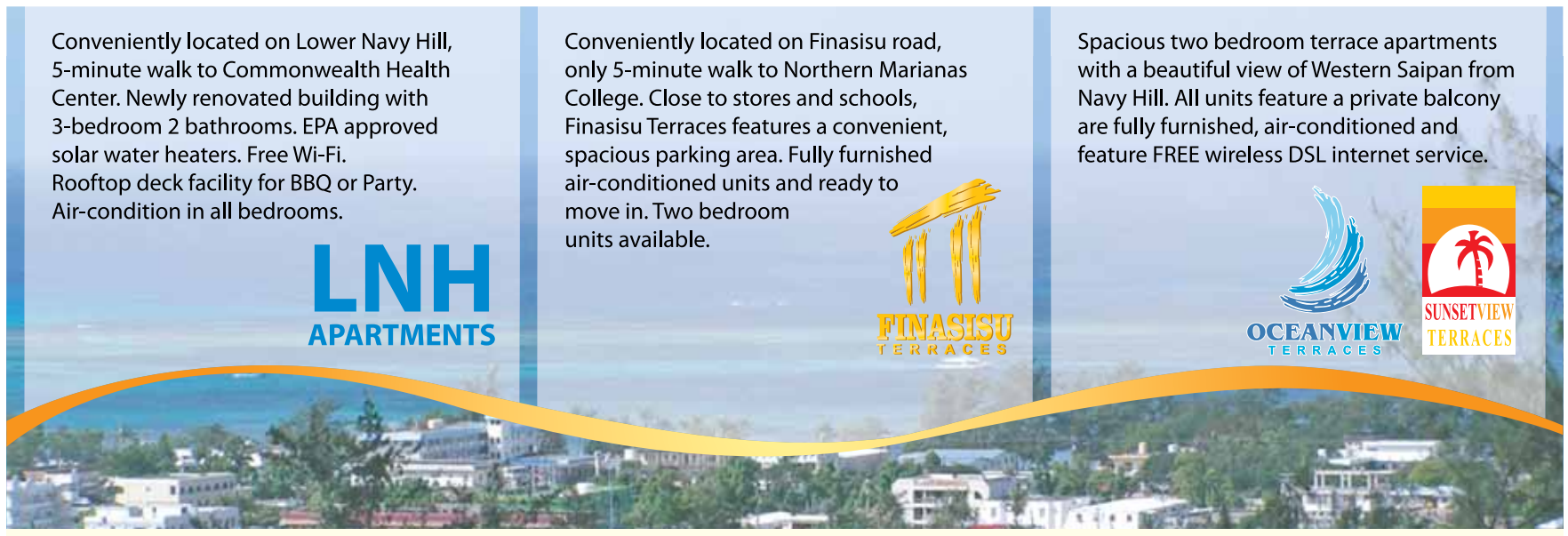
Additional information about the Council and its programs can be found at its website www.nmihumanities.org or from Council staff at 235-4785. ***(PR)***

CONTACT INFO

NMI Council for the Humanities
- www.nmihumanities.org
- 235-4785

Retiring board member Herman T. Guerrero poses with his plaque of recognition. Also pictured from left: board member MaryLou S. Ada, board chair Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, board member Janet H. King and Council executive director Antonio V. Deleon Guerrero.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO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DYS SPONSORS PARENT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Over 35 parents and caregivers attended the Parent Development Mini-workshops sponsored by the Division of Youth Services on April 28-29, 2009. The workshops aimed to develop skills and knowledge in areas that would assist parents and caregivers in their parenting abilities. One of DYS' main goals is to assist families as they strive to raise their children in healthy, safe, and nurturing ways. The workshops were held in recognition of April as the Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month. The presenters included Sr. Maryann Hartmann; Jennifer Furey-Maratita, a licensed counselor from the Community Guidance Center; Mary Ann Stewart, PSS child psychologist; and Laura T. Ogumoro of the Division of Youth Services.

CLICK IT OR TICKET

Click It or Ticket

Mobilization

CLICK IT OR TICKET

May 18-31, 2009

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICIAL SEAL

DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SAFETY

Water outage set in Kobler and San Antonio villages

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a water outage in Koblerville affecting customers residing in Kobler and San Antonio villages on Saturday, May 16, 2009, from 7:30am to 6: 30pm.

The CUC Water Division Distribution Maintenance crew is scheduled to work on the Koblerville sump tank to seal all holes and opening, inspect, clean and disinfect the storage tank. This required work is necessary to protect treated stored water and provide improved overall water quality for public consumption. This work will enable the Water Division to comply with the stipulated order concerning drinking water operations and maintenance in correcting major sanitary deficiencies cited during storage tanks inspections. Water service will be restored to affected customers as soon as the work is completed.

Residents are encouraged to practice strict water conservation and to teach children and household workers to save water, especially during this period. Rainwater catchments system/ water tanks should be cleaned and float valves installed or replaced to ensure that water does not overflow from any tanks.

For more information, contact Bruce Megarr, Deputy Director for Water & Wastewater Operations, at 235-7025 thru 235-7032 Ext. 172. ***(CUC)***

Hone your customer service

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering short-term classes to interested individuals who wish to improve their customer service and administrative skills.

The classes, designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills, are geared around actual workforce needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers. The May/June course schedule and fees are listed below:

ON THE NET
www.nmcnet.edu

CONTACT INFO
CDI: Building P, NMC Campus, As Terlaje
234-5498 Ext. 1005
www.nmcnet.edu

Communication in the Workplace
May 26-29, 2009
Schedule: 5pm - 7:30pm
Room: N-5
Fee: $95

Stress Management
June 1-5, 2009
Schedule: 5pm - 7pm
Room: N-5
Fee: $95

Basic Customer Service Skills Training
June 8-12, 2009
Schedule: 5pm - 7pm
Room: N-5
Fee: $95

Work Etiquette Training
June 15-16, 2009
Schedule: 5pm - 7pm
Room: N-5
Fee: $40

Time Management
June 17-18, 2009
Schedule: 5pm - 7pm
Room: N-5
Fee: $40

These courses are offered as part of the college's mission to provide customized, continuing educational and professional development opportunities in response to community needs.

For a schedule of these classes, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. For a more detailed description of each course, contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1005 or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

All interested individuals should register at least seven days before the first day of class. Certificates of attendance and competence will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class. To register or for information about these classes, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call 234-5498 extension 1005 or e-mail logumoro@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

The students, staff, and board of directors of the
Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School
send great appreciation to the following businesses for donating prizes, materials, and funds in support of the
4th Annual Walk-A-Thon Student Fundraiser
May 2009.

Your willingness to build our future school campus is deeply appreciated.

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Café at the Park/Ginen Saipan
ELITE PRINTING
HARDT EYE CLINIC
ISLAND APPAREL
MICRONESIAN BROKERS (CNMI), INC.
MODERN STATIONERY & TRADING CO. INC.
IT&E Life in Motion
LOLLIPOPS
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN
SUBWAY eat fresh.
JOETEN 60th ANNIVERSARY
Rainbow Color
Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Seventh-day Adventist Clinic

Ristorante Italiano
CAPRICCIOSA

Value Family Meal for all Mommies!

Caesar Salad
Bruschetta
Corn Soup
Seafood Spaghetti
Spicy Grilled Chicken with Rosemary
Pumpkin Pie
With two complimentary Peroni, Italian Traditional Beer or Pepsi

Only **$45.99**
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May 1-31, 2009

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Stop in to Shell today to reel in this great offer!

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A WORLD OF CHOICES!
Don't gas up without it!

Business

Obama administration to expand housing plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is expected to expand its mortgage aid program on Thursday, announcing new measures that would help homeowners avoid a blemished credit record even if they don't qualify for other assistance.

The new initiatives are expected to include ways to allow borrowers to avoid foreclosure by selling their properties or giving them back to lenders, according to people briefed on the plan who declined to be identified because it has yet to be announced.

One way would be to encourage a "short sale," in which the home is sold for less than the amount owed on the mortgage but the lender considers the debt paid off. Another option is a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure - in which the borrower gives the property to the lender to satisfy a delinquent loan and to avoid foreclosure proceedings.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan are scheduled to appear Thursday morning with some borrowers who have benefited from the government's housing aid program launched in March. An administration official said more than 55,000 offers have been made to modify borrowers' loans in its first two months.

Short sales are often seen as preferable to foreclosure because they don't harm a borrowers' credit record as much as a foreclosure, but real estate agents have complained that the process can drag out for months.

"The problem is it's never clear who in a bank has the authority to approve a short sale," said Howard Glaser, a mortgage industry consultant in Washington and a former HUD official. Federal standards "would speed the process for buyers and sellers by making it more efficient."

The administration estimated earlier this year that as many as 9 million borrowers will be helped through its "Making Home Affordable" initiative, including up to 5 million borrowers who are refinancing loans and 4 million who are modifying mortgages at lower monthly payments.

So far, 14 companies representing about three quarters of the mortgage market have signed up and are in line to pocket a portion of $50 billion in incentives to lower borrowers' monthly payments so they can stay in their homes.

Trustee: Madoff firm was family's own piggy bank

NEW YORK (AP)—The credit card bill is a 30-page study in conspicuous consumption.

A quick scan shows a restaurant charge of more than $2,800, $2,000 in spending at a Parisian boutique and $441 at a gourmet bagel shop. There was $8,400 for one night at a hotel in Santa Monica and another $5,000 at the Montauk Yacht Club. The total amount due: more than $100,000.

Eye-popping numbers aside, the American Express statement from January 2008 has taken on broader meaning because of the notorious name on the corporate account: Bernard L. Madoff.

And the vast majority of the charges aren't even his; they belong to his family and associates.

The bill is among a pile of exhibits filed recently in a Manhattan bankruptcy court by Irving Picard, the court-appointed trustee who is dissecting Madoff's massive Ponzi scheme. Lawyers for the trustee claim in accompanying court papers that the credit card statement and other records prove Madoff's family used his clients' money to pay for homes, travel, fancy meals and other personal expenses.

The admitted swindler treated Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities "as his personal bank account, taking funds when he needed them and transferring funds to other Madoff entities or family members when it suited his whim and purposes," the lawyers wrote.

Intel hit with $1.45B fine in Europe

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Intel Corp. was fined a record $1.45 billion by the European Union on Wednesday for using strong-arm sales tactics in the computer chip market—a penalty that could turn up the pressure on U.S. regulators to go after the company, too.

The fine against the world's biggest chip maker represents a huge victory for Intel's Silicon Valley rival, Advanced Micro Devices Inc., or AMD, the No. 2 supplier of microprocessors to PC makers.

AMD has sued Intel and lobbied regulators around the world for the past five years, complaining that Intel was penalizing PC makers in the U.S. and abroad for doing business with AMD.

Although the U.S. Federal Trade Commission is also investigating, AMD seems to have found its most sympathetic ear in Europe.

EU Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes said Intel has harmed millions of European consumers by "deliberately acting to keep competitors out of the market."

"Intel did not compete fairly, frustrating innovation and reducing consumer welfare in the process," she said.

TASTE OF THE
MARIANAS
2009
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN
AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
MAY 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2009
Saturday, May 16, 2009
6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Rainbow Dancers (Dancers)
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Te Kanahau Nui (Dancers)
7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Timothy Youth Circle (Dance performance)
8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Talabwogh Men Stick Dancers
8:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Angel International School Dance
9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Maggie Naputi
2009 Taste of the Marianas Food Festival & Beer Garden (vendors):
1. Aqua Resort Club, Saipan
2. Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan
3. Hafadai Beach Hotel
4. Hyatt Regency Saipan
5. Pacific Islands Club Saipan
6. Canton Restaurant
7. Saipan World Resort
8. Sierra Pearl Shakes
9. Capricciosa & Tony Roma's
10. D'Elegance Café
11. Herman's Modern Bakery
12. Hula Girl/3's
13. Thai House Restaurant
14. Poon's Restaurant
15. Ty & Tia
Beer Garden Vendors:
Pacific Trading Company
MARPAC
Northern Marianas Bartender Association
"Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit" Islandwear Fridays
Every Friday in May is Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Islandwear Friday! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Share your favorite islandwear shots of yourself, your friends, co-workers, and family on Facebook at "Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Islandwear in the Northern Mariana Islands.
Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden
The highly anticipated weekly celebration will be held every Saturday in May at the American Memorial Park from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by over 15 hotels and local restaurants. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. Learn more about the industry through game competitions.
My Marianas Community Outreach Presentation
Learn about the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this slideshow at Taste of the Marianas and Garapan Street Market. Tourism Month informational packages will also be available on-site.
On-the-Street Interviews
MVA turns the spotlight turns on you, as random community members share their views on various tourism topics in this regular newspaper feature with questions and short answers.
Radio Tourism Trivia
Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did you Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be air regularly throughout the month on Power 99, 97.9 FM The KAT, and 103.9 FM KZMI.
KSPN 2 Tourism Month Calendar
May Tourism Month events are highlighted through out the month on cable television for your easy reference on KSPN2.
Saipan Tinian Rota
For more information contact the Marianas Visitors Authority at telephone numbers (670) 664-3200/01.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chinese imports could bring GM political troubles

DETROIT (AP)—As thousands of General Motors workers await word on more U.S. plant closures, reports that the company plans to import Chinese-made vehicles to the U.S. have created a political problem for the automaker and the White House. The reports, which GM will neither confirm nor deny, could mean trouble because GM is supported by $15.4 billion in U.S. government loans, largely due to the Obama administration's desire to preserve the company's 90,000 U.S. jobs. The United Auto Workers charged last week that the Detroit automaker intends to almost double over the next five years the number of vehicles it imports to the U.S. from Mexico, South Korea, China and Japan. "GM should not be taking taxpayers' money simply to finance the outsourcing of jobs to other countries," Alan Reuther, the union's Washington lobbyist, wrote in a letter to U.S. lawmakers.

Macy's, Liz Claiborne see wider 1st-quarter losses

NEW YORK (AP)—Department store Macy's Inc. and clothing maker Liz Claiborne reported wider losses for the first quarter on Wednesday because of charges tied to changes they are making as they try to streamline and respond to how people are shopping in the recession. Though both companies said business isn't getting worse, their CEOs acknowledged that spending will likely remain weak throughout the year. Terry J. Lundgren, Macy's chairman, president and chief executive, said that even as the chain cuts inventories to be in line with weak demand, it may have to keep slashing prices throughout the year to get nervous shoppers buying again. "We're going to do what we have to do to be competitive and—and with the way that the consumer (has) reacted for the last several months, we're not ready to say ... she's back in the stores and ready to buy yet," Lundgren told investors during a conference call.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Declining immigration slows Asian, Hispanic growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—Deterred by immigration laws and the lackluster economy, the population growth of Hispanics and Asians in the U.S. has slowed unexpectedly, causing the government to push back estimates on when minorities will become the majority by as much as a decade. Census data released Thursday also showed that fewer Hispanics were migrating to suburbs and newly emerging immigrant areas in the Southeast, including Arkansas, Tennessee and Georgia, staying put instead in traditional gateway locations such as California. The nation's overall minority population continues to rise steadily, adding 2.3 percent in 2008 to 104.6 million, or 34 percent of the total population. But the slowdown among Hispanics and Asians continues to shift conventional notions on when the tipping point in U.S. diversity will come - estimated to occur more than three decades from now. Black growth rates remain somewhat flat.

Pilots' low pay, long commutes probed in air crash

WASHINGTON (AP)—The co-pilot in an airline crash that killed 50 people in upstate New York was paid a salary so low that she lived with her parents near Seattle and commuted across the country to her job, a combination of long travel and little money that a safety official called a "recipe for an accident." The second day of a three-day National Transportation Safety Board hearing Wednesday focused on whether Captain Marvin Renslow and co-pilot Rebecca Shaw were fatigued on the wintry night of Feb. 12 when they apparently made a series of critical errors as Continental Connection Flight 3407 approached Buffalo Niagara International Airport. The Bombardier Dash 8-Q400, a twin-engine turboprop, experienced an aerodynamic stall, rolling back and forth before plunging into a house below. All 49 people aboard and one on the ground were killed in the worst U.S. air crash in seven years.

Obama seeks to block release of abuse photos

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama declared Wednesday he would try to block the court-ordered release of photos showing U.S. troops abusing prisoners, abruptly reversing his position out of concern the pictures would "further inflame anti-American opinion" and endanger U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The White House had said last month it would not oppose the release of dozens of photos from military investigations of alleged misconduct. But American commanders in the war zones have expressed deep concern about fresh damage the photos might do, especially as the U.S. tries to wind down the Iraq war and step up operations against the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

Obama

Obama, realizing how high emotions run on detainee treatment during the Bush administration and now, made it a point to personally explain his change of heart, stopping to address TV cameras late in the day as he left the White House for a flight to Arizona.

He said the photos had already served their purpose in investigations of "a small number of individuals." Those cases were all concluded by 2004, and the president said "the individuals who were involved have been identified, and appropriate actions have been taken."

When photos emerged in 2004 from the infamous U.S.-run Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, showing grinning American soldiers posing with detainees—some of the prisoners naked, some being held on leashes—the pictures caused a huge anti-American backlash around the globe, particularly in the Muslim world.

The Pentagon conducted 200 investigations into alleged abuse connected with the photos that are now in question. The administration did not provide an immediate accounting of how they turned out.

"This is not a situation in which the Pentagon has concealed or sought to justify inappropriate action," Obama said of the photos. "In fact, the most direct consequence of releasing them, I believe, would be to further inflame anti-American opinion and to put our troops in greater danger."

Craigslist to drop 'erotic services' classifieds

CHICAGO (AP)—A month after the killing of a masseuse who advertised on Craigslist, the classified ad site announced plans Wednesday to eliminate its "erotic services" category and screen all submissions to a new "adult services" section before they are posted.

Law enforcement officials praised the move as a victory against online prostitution, but they acknowledged doubts about whether the changes will curb the practice.

"I'm not going to take their word for it. We want to see action," said Dan Gallagher, an attorney representing Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, who sued Craigslist in March, accusing it of being the nation's biggest source of prostitution.

The announcement marked a significant policy change for Craigslist, which in the past has never pre-screened ads, choosing instead to remove them only after receiving complaints. The new adult services ads will also carry a fee.

Skeptical authorities said the Web site had broken previous promises to monitor erotic ads.

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	REG. PRICE	SALE PRICE
1GB	$99.00	$79.00
2GB	$169.00	$129.00
4GB	$219.00	$179.00

COBY MP4 PLAYER

	REG. PRICE	SALE PRICE
2GB	$89.00	$69.00
4GB	$109.00	$89.00

SONY LCD TV

	REG. PRICE	SALE PRICE
26"	$999.00	$769.00
32"	$1399.00	$999.00
46"	$2699.00	$1899.00
37"	$1599.00	$1279.00
40"	$1899.00	$1299.00
40" FULL HD		$1699.00
46"	$2499.00	$1999.00
40"	$1899.00	$1399.00
46" FULL HD	$2999.00	$2199.00

SONY DIGITAL CAMERA

	REG. PRICE	SALE PRICE
DSC-W130: 8.1 MEGA PIXEL 4X OPTICAL ZOOM INCLUDED BATTERY CHARGER, RECHARGEABLE BATTERY	$339.00	$269.00
DSC-W150: 8.1 MEGA PIXEL 5X OPTICAL ZOOM WIDE ANGLE LENZ INCLUDED BATTERY CHARGER & BATTERY	$369.00	$299.00
DSC-W170: 10.1 MEGA PIXEL 5X OPTICAL ZOOM WIDE ANGLE LENZ INCLUDED BATTERY CHARGER & BATTERY	$399.00	$339.00
DSC-T77: 10.1 MEGA PIXEL 4X OPTICAL ZOOM 3.0"TOUCH SCREEN INCLUDED BATTERY CHARGER & BATTERY	$449.00	$359.00
DSC-T700: 10.1 MEGA PIXEL 4X OPTICAL ZOOM 3.5"TOUCH SCREEN 4GB INTERNAL MEMORY INCLUDED BATTERY CHARGER & BATTERY	$549.00	$449.00
DSLR-A200K: 10.1 MEGA PIXEL 150 100-3200 2.7" LCD LENZ 18-70MM	$729.00	$599.00

SONY VIDEO CAMERA

	REG. PRICE	SALE PRICE
DCR SR 45: 30GB HARD DISK	$646.00	$499.00
DCR SR 65: 40GB HARD DISK	$699.00	$599.00
DCR SR 85: 60GB HARD DISK	$769.00	$659.00
HDR SR 11: 40GB HARD DISK FULL HD 1080 4.0 MEGA PIXEL DIGITAL CAMERA	$1099.00	$999.00

DCR DVD 308: DVD TYPE
1 MEGA PIXEL
REG. PRICE $599.00
SALE PRICE $399.00

MINI DV TYPE VIDEO CAMERA
3 MEGA PIXEL DIGITAL CAMERA
SALE PRICE $359.00

Asia

NKorea says US reporters will stand trial June 4

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Two U.S. journalists arrested nearly two months ago near North Korea's border with China on accusations of illegal entry and "hostile acts" will be tried by Pyongyang in early June, state media said Thursday.

Laura Ling and Euna Lee, reporters for former Vice President Al Gore's San Francisco-based Current TV media venture, were detained March 17 while reporting on North Korean refugees living across the border in China.

A brief dispatch by Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency did not say what charges they will face June 4 and provided few details. But state media previously said they stand accused of illegal entry and unspecified "hostile" acts—charges that could carry up to 10 years in prison.

The detention of the two Americans comes at a time of mounting tensions between Pyongyang and Washington, and there are concerns the North could use the women as bargaining chips as it seeks to position itself for talks with the Obama administration about its weapons programs.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suu Kyi charged with violating house arrest

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A lawyer for Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi says she has been charged with violating terms of her house arrest and could face a prison term of up to five years. Lawyer Hla Myo Myint told reporters that Suu Kyi's trial was scheduled to start next Monday. The lawyer says Suu Kyi is being tried in connection with an American man's stealthy entry into her home last week. The lawyer says the American man has been charged with entering a restricted zone, and breaking immigration laws. The lawyer spoke to reporters after coming out of Insein Prison, where Suu Kyi and the American man were being held.

RP president orders probe of death squads

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president has ordered police to investigate alleged state-sponsored death squads blamed for killing more than 800 suspected criminals in a southern city, a senior official said Wednesday. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, the president's chief spokesman, said the government "does not—nor will it ever—condone, tolerate, abet, encourage, much less sponsor" killings to fight crime. New York-based Human Rights Watch reported last month that its investigation showed that some police and government officials provided training and weapons to hit men who gunned down 814 suspected drug dealers, petty criminals and street children allegedly involved in gangs between 1998 and February 2009 in Davao city. Thirty-three killings were reported in January alone, the group said.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

ANGELICA R. BERMUDES/HERMAN R. BERMUDES (collectively "Trustor"), on or about February 10, 1987, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 10, 1987 under Document No. 87-0297 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Tract No. H-314-1 containing an area of 929 square meters more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys check number 2092/86, which was filed at the Commonwealth Recorder's office under file number 86-0857, BK. 1, PG-170, 3:38 p.m. on April 29, 1986.
Tract No. H-314-R/W contain an area of 759 square meters more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Check Number 2092/86, which was filed at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office under file number 86-2112, BK. 6, PG-96, 1:55 p.m. on October 22, 1986.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$53,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

ANTONIA T. TEIGITA/ EFRAIN T. TEIGITA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about August 1, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on August 1, 1984 under Document No. 84-1366 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 003 B 16, and Containing an area of 1,117 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat Number 003 B 02, the original of which was registered with the Land Commission as Document 5979, on the 4th day of April, 1977.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$68,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

DONALD C. CAMACHO and ROSALINDA ULLOA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about December 20, 2004, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 23, 2004 under Document No. 04-3035 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot 001 C 57, (part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of Lot 001 C 15, which was part of Lot 001 C 13, which was part of original Lot 001 C 5, TD 697), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 11, the original of which was recorded 05 JUN as Document No. 98-1697 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$127,430.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

DONNA Q. KAPILEO and DONOVAN K. TECHUR (collectively "Trustor"), on or about November 16, 1999, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 23, 1999 under Document No. 99-2778 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 011 G 1091, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 20, the original of which was recorded 09 Dec 93 as Document No. 93-4288 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$108,650.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

MARIA A. TEREGEYO ("Trustor"), on or about June 6, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 6, 1984 under Document No. 84-881 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 005 I 494, containing an area of 745 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document Number 14232 dated May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$116,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

RICARDO P. CASTRO and LORENZA P. CASTRO (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 8, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 16, 1998 under Document No. 98-3276 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 011 G 685, containing an area of 845 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plate No. 011 G 14 dated December 1, 1993 , Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4182, dated December 3, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$90,200.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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World

In Bethlehem, Pope calls for Palestinian state

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI made a powerful plea Wednesday for a Palestinian state, mixing prayer and politics at Jesus' birthplace and expressing solidarity at a refugee camp with "all the homeless Palestinians who long to be able to return to their birthplace."

At the Aida refugee camp, the pope spoke in the shadow of the massive concrete barrier that divides Israelis and Palestinians and urged both sides to resist the urge for revenge and find the courage needed for peace.

The high-profile visit provided a forum for Palestinians to vent their rage over the Israeli occupation, and Benedict said he understood their frustration.

But he urged young people in particular to "have the courage to resist any temptation to resort to acts of violence or terrorism," his first mention of terrorism since he began his Middle East tour last Friday.

At each stop during his 10-hour stay in the West Bank, Benedict said much of what the Palestinians were hoping to hear, including giving assurances of his "deep compassion and remembrance in prayer" for those killed by the Israeli offensive in Gaza.

Arriving in Bethlehem from nearby Jerusalem, Benedict, 82, was driven through a gate in the 25-foot-high concrete wall, part of the separation barrier Israel has erected along the West Bank and calls key to its security.

"Our pope is our hope" read posters hung around the town, also dotted with yellow and cream flags of the Vatican and red, black, white and green Palestinian flags.

At the nearby Aida refugee camp, the pope said the looming barbed wire and concrete structure served as a "stark reminder" of the tense situation.

The refugee camp, where about 5,000 Palestinians live, is next to the towering wall, and residents had wanted Benedict to speak from a stage next to it to highlight life under Israeli occupation.

But the Israeli government ordered a halt to construction of the stage, saying organizers lacked the necessary permits and the site's proximity to the wall posed a security risk.

"Even if walls can easily be built, we know they don't last forever. They can be demolished," the German-born pontiff told the crowd.

"First of all, however, it is necessary to remove the walls that we build around our hearts," he said. Israel constructed the barrier to keep out Palestinian attackers, but Palestinians object because it cuts them off from Jerusalem and juts into their land.

Benedict regretted the reality that led to its construction.

"In a world where more and more borders are being opened up ... it is tragic to see walls still being erected," he said. "How earnestly we pray for an end to the hostilities that have caused this wall to be built."

Mexico thanks US for flu response

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Swine flu has infected Mexico's relations with China and other countries that have canceled airline flights and halted some trade. But its most prickly neighbor—the United States—now seems like the country's most loyal friend.

Mexico is smarting from what it considers discriminatory actions by countries it had considered friendly, insisting the world should be grateful for its open and aggressive efforts to stem the spread of swine flu. The shutdown of public life cost Mexico $2.2 billion in the first 10 days after the epidemic was announced.

The government sent a plane to pick up 70 of its citizens quarantined in China. It rebuked Cuba, Ecuador, Argentina and Peru for banning flights to Mexico, saying they were acting "incongruously with our traditional ties of friendship."

France tried—and failed—to win a European Union-wide ban on flights to Mexico.

Particularly insulting for Mexico: Haiti rejected a Mexican ship last week carrying 77 tons of much-needed food aid because of swine flu fears.

All of that put the U.S. response in a very favorable light. Neither the United States nor Canada banned flights or restricted trade with Mexico. The three countries are partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement.

President Barack Obama forcefully rejected the idea of closing the border, despite arguments from conservative talk show hosts that swine flu showed immigration from Mexico was a threat.

The Obama administration cast the decision as a recognition of reality: Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said sealing the border would be extremely costly and pointless since the virus was already in the United States. Obama likened the idea to "closing the barn door after the horses are out."

Even so, it was symbolically significant in Mexico, which protested when the U.S. began building a border fence under former President George W. Bush.

While Obama has also beefed up border security, he has pledged to renew efforts to push through immigration reforms that eluded the Bush administration, including extending a citizenship path for illegal immigrants. His emphasis on open borders during the swine flu outbreak could help set the tone.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-017

Paving of Students and Staff Parking Lot for Kagman High School and Koblerville Elementary School - A and B

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Acting Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Paving of Students and Staff Parking Lot for Kagman High School and Koblerville Elementary School, A and B**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after MAY 1, 2009 at Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (**US$150.00**), is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope Of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to US Citizen as per **Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, and be submitted with the BID preference is claimed.**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on May 20, 2009, 9:30 a.m. local time at the DPW Conference Room, Gualo Rai, Joeten Commercial Bldg. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 20, 2009 to Mr. **Joseph M. Inos**, Director of Technical Services Division, DPW Gualo Rai Office, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW09-IFB-017**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 22, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 22, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 22, 2009, and must be received no later than June 02, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies maybe cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 5, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on May 26, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier' Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

This project is funded through Third Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax fund collection pursuant to Public Law 16-22.

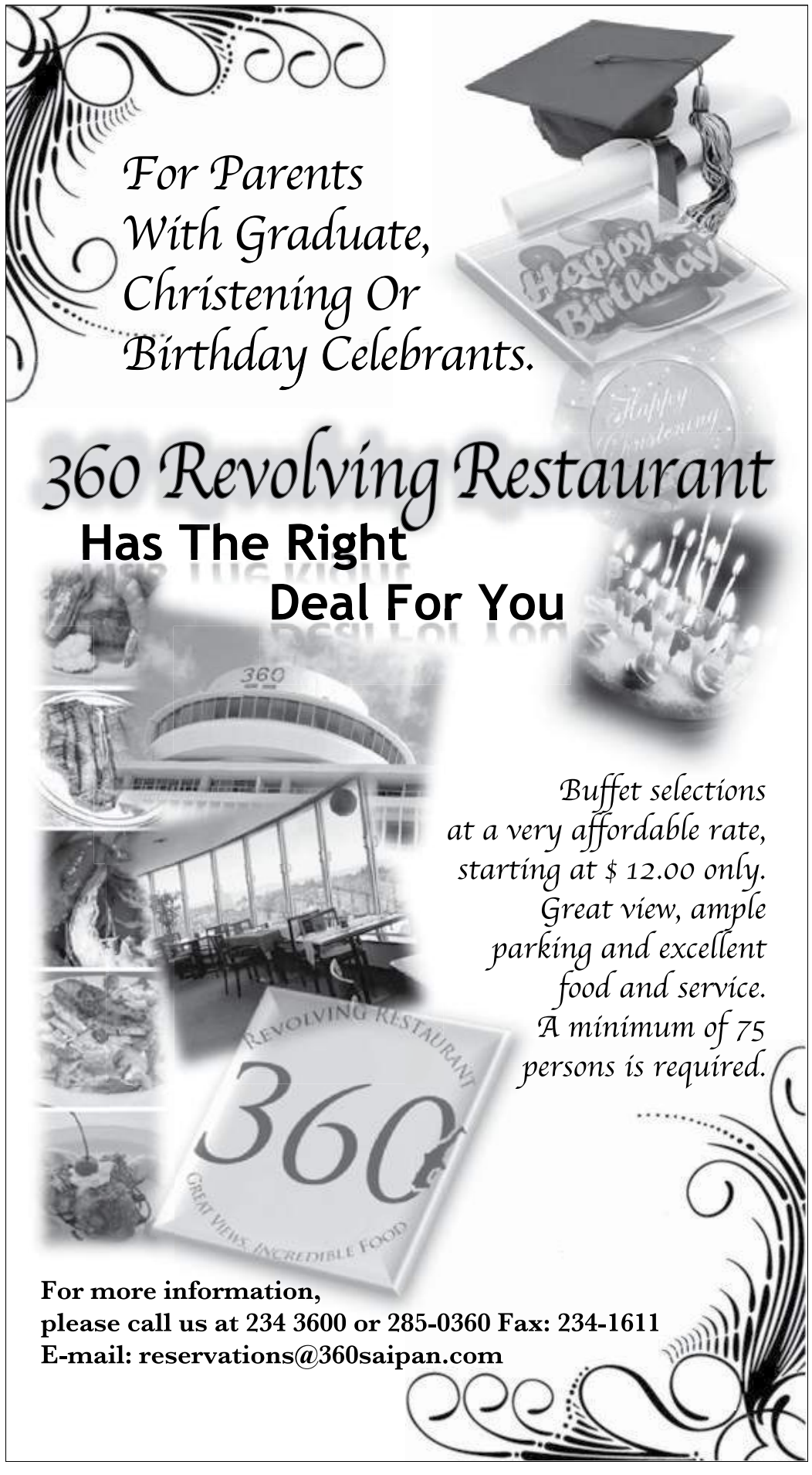
The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One hundred dollars (US$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply



Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

'Biggest Loser' picks a winner

DETROIT (AP)—A 48-year-old Detroit-area woman has won "The Biggest Loser: Couples." Helen Phillips from Sterling Heights lost the greatest percentage of weight among the three finalists to win the televised weight-loss competition. She took home the $250,000 grand prize. She has bested 19-year-old Mike Morelli of South Lyon, Mich. Phillips tells The Associated Press Tuesday night that her husband, Russell, is in danger of losing his job when Chrysler LLC closes its Sterling Heights assembly plant in 2010, and the money will give the family "a nice cushion" New York City resident Tara Costa placed third. Morelli's 55-year-old father, Ron, finished fourth.

College student charged with growing pot in dorm

UNITY, Maine (AP)—Police said a Unity College student who failed to do a thorough cleaning of her dorm room before leaving campus faces criminal charges after security guards found several marijuana plants growing there. The Waldo County Sheriff's Office said a 19-year-old was charged with cultivation, sale and use of marijuana. The college held its graduation ceremonies Saturday. The Morning Sentinel in Waterville said security guards were checking dorm room the following evening to make sure they were emptied when they discovered the plants in plastic containers. Police said fewer than 10 plants were seized.

Dog does what rain or snow can't: Mail halted

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. (AP)—Cozmo the Jack Russell terrier has done what neither rain, sleet nor the gloom of night has been able to do—keep postal carriers in Clarksburg from their appointed rounds. Postal Service spokeswoman Cathy Yarosky said mail delivery to seven homes on Milford Street was halted because of the 20-pound terrier. She said a carrier was injured after falling while trying to run away from Cozmo. Cozmo's owners Jimmy and Justine Marino, said the dog has never bitten anyone. But they acknowledged he has gotten out of the yard a few times. The Marinos have been told mail delivery won't resume until they get rid of the dog. Jimmy Marino said efforts to find a new home for Cozmo have been unsuccessful.

Elderly Pa. drug defendants working out plea deal

STROUDSBURG, Pa. (AP)—Two senior citizen sisters accused of selling heroin in northeastern Pennsylvania are trying to work out a plea bargain. The Monroe County district attorney has said that 70-year-old Elizabeth Grube and 65-year-old Elaine Volkert, both of Stroud Township, were making up to $10,000 a week in profits. They gave up their right to a preliminary hearing Wednesday. Grube's lawyer, Jason LaBar, says "the ladies got caught up in something and just kept rolling along." He says the defendants are cooperating with authorities and hope to avoid jail time. Assistant District Attorney Michael Mancuso said he hopes the defendants' cooperation will cause prosecution of higher-level dealers.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF HAWAII Plaintiff, vs. RICARDO R. RASA and MATILDE H. BERMUDES, Defendant.	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0395 NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 28, 2009, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

EA 415-3NEW-3 (formerly part of EA 415-3 NEW, which was part of original EA 415), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2026/89, the original of which was recorded 07 DEC 88 as Document No. 88-3910 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on May 27, 2009, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Ball LLP, Carlsmith Building, Capitol Hill, Isa Drive, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, April 28, 2009.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Bank Of Hawaii

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of **Marikishalin Learughpiang Aguon Iguel** by: Patricia R. Aguon-Cruz	:	FCD-AD Civil Action No. 09-0238

NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED ADOPTION OF Marikishalin Learughpiang Aguon Iguel (Born January 9, 2000)

Please take notice that the hearing regarding the proposed adoption of **Marikishalin Learughpiang Aguon Iguel** by Patricia R. Aguon-Cruz will be held at the Commonwealth Superior Court, Courtroom 205, on May 19, 2009, at 9:00 p.m.

Marikishalin Learughpiang Aguon Iguel was born on January 9, 2000 in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The petition for the adoption of **Marikishalin Learughpiang Aguon Iguel** is sealed. However, a copy of the petition will be provided to any person that requests a copy before the date of the hearing and is able to demonstrate that they are or may be an interested person to **Marikishalin Learughpiang Aguon Iguel**'s adoption, as determined by CNMI law. If you believe that you are an interested person, a copy of the petition may be obtained by contacting Sean E. Frink at the Carlsmith Ball LLP, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, NM 96950; Telephone (670) 322-3455; Fax (670) 322-3368; E-mail: sfrink@carlsmith.com.

Failure of interested persons to appear at the hearing and provide their objections will result in them forever waiving any rights that they may have to contest this adoption.

DATED: May 1st, 2009.

/s/ SEAN E. FRINK
Attorney at Law

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-CRM-092

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 03, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT - TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D)

/s/ **JOHN B. JOYNER, PH.D**
DIRECTOR OF CRM

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-BOP-097

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 03, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) LAPTOP COMPUTERS FOR THE BOARD OF PAROLE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **JOSEPH T. GUERRERO**
CHIEF OF PAROLE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SUNSET VILLA BEACH COTTAGES

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is soliciting proposals for the sale of the **SUNSET VILLA BEACH COTTAGES Lot No. 105 R 01, located in Sonton Rota.** The property spans 6,422 square meters and contains 14 unit rooms of 6 cottages, 4 deluxe and 4 super deluxe rooms all with ocean view.

The sale shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum offer - $700,000.00.
2. Sale will be granted to the highest and or best offer.
3. Sunset Villa is being sold at its current condition, **"AS IS"**.
4. Sunset Villa is being sold **"WITHOUT WARRANTY"** of any type.
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Interested party or person may contact Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director at 234-6245 for further information and Nanette Atalig, at 532-9408 to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

A non-refundable deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid upon award by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Unless otherwise proposed and accepted by CDA, the remaining balance shall be due within ten (10) business days of the award. Failure to make payment of that remaining balance within ten (10) business days shall result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

Interested party or person are asked to submit their proposal at the CDA Saipan Office in a sealed envelop identified as "Sunset Villa Proposal" attention Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director. Deadline to submit proposal is **4:00 p.m. Friday, May 29, 2009.**

Dated this 27th day of April, 2009.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

GUADALUPE O. BORJA ("Trustor"), on or about October 16, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 16, 1984 under Document No. 84-2185 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 017 D 35, containing an area of 900 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat Number 017 D 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 4842, on the 11th day of September, 1975.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$98,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

ESTHER A. CASTRO and WAYNE T. ALDAN (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 20, 2001, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 2, 2001 under Document No. 01-2164 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 330 R 21 containing an area of 838 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 330 R 02, dated March 13, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-858, dated March 16, 1992, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$59,940.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

ELISA P. AQUININGOC/JESSE P. AQUININGOC (collectively "Trustor"), on or about December 4, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 10, 1998 under Document No. 98-4068 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 008 T 114, containing an area of 923 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 008 T 01 dated January 7, 1988, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 88-161, dated January 19, 1988, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$101,820.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Science & Technology

Google digging deeper to improve search results

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc. is about to add more features to its already dominant Internet search engine—and some of the changes could give Web surfers less reason to click through to other sites. That scenario might upset the creators of the material highlighted in Google's results.

For instance, one of Google's new tools will assemble the work of other Web sites into a spreadsheet-style format.

Unlike Google's traditional search results, the spreadsheet experiment, called "Google Squared," doesn't simply show a set of Web links related to a search request. Instead, it fishes through Google's massive database to organize pertinent facts and other content in rows and columns.

In a Tuesday demonstration that was webcast, Google showed how a search request made about small dogs through the Squared tool will display pictures next to extensive descriptions about different breeds, on Google's own site. The content was imported from other Internet destinations.

The Squared results show where the information originated, so people can still quickly go to the original source, said Marissa Mayer, Google's vice president of search products. She emphasized Google is trying to keep its millions of users happy by helping them make more "informed clicks."

Google already is under attack by newspaper publishers who contend the company unfairly profits by showing headlines and story snippets pulled from their sites. Mountain View, Calif.-based Google maintains that its practices adhere to copyright laws and that it provides ways for newspapers to block their content from being indexed by its search engine.

NO YOU DON'T AP

An undated file photo made available by Google Friday April 3, 2009 shows one of their street mapping cars. A privacy watchdog has banned Google Inc. from gathering detailed, street-level images in Greece for a planned expansion of its panoramic Street View mapping service until the company provides additional privacy safeguards.

Other revisions coming to Google will include more details, or "snippets," posted under Web links in the search results. And there will be new options that will enable users to confine the results to a specific time period or category, such as product reviews.

The changes are expected to roll out in phases during the next few weeks.

Although Google sells ads all over the Web, the company rakes in its largest profits when people click on the marketing messages that appear alongside its search results. That is one reason Google is still trying to widen its lead in Internet search, even though it already processes nearly two-thirds of all U.S. queries, according to comScore Inc.

Even as it has laid off workers, cut back perquisites and closed unpopular services to help boost its profits during the recession, Google has vowed to keep investing in research and development.

"We are always striving for the ideal or perfect search engine," Mayer said. She believes Google is about 90 percent toward its objective, but expects the final 10 percent to be the most difficult.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Q: How can I save a document as a PDF on my Windows PC?

A: If you want to hand out a copy that will look just as it did on your screen, without font mismatches or layout glitches, your most reliable options are paper or PDF—and paper doesn't work well if it gets wet.

Adobe's Portable Document Format is a digital equivalent of that paper printout, preserving every detail of a document—whether or not the recipient has the same fonts, applications or even operating system as you.

Mac OS X includes this helpful option, as do a few Windows programs. For example, Corel's WordPerfect and the free, open-source OpenOffice.org (openoffice.org) both let you save a file as a PDF, and last week's Microsoft Office 2007 Service Pack 2 update (office.microsoft.com/downloads) adds the same to Microsoft's productivity suite. But in most cases, you'll need to add software to Windows to save your work as PDF files.

The easiest such option I found was the free CutePDF (cutepdf.com), which adds a "CutePDF Writer" entry in any print-dialog box; select that, pick a folder on your computer, and you'll get a PDF copy of your document a moment later.

Its "Save As" dialog includes a small text ad for Newport News-based developer Acro Software's CutePDF Pro. For an ad-free, but more complex option, try the free, open-source PDFCreator (pdfcreator.sourceforge.net).

■■■

Q: Microsoft is now pushing out Internet Explorer 8 as an automatic update. Should I let Windows install it?

A: Yes. IE 8 has some issues, but it still offers a big step up in security and capability over IE 7—much less the gruesomely obsolete IE 6.

Any Internet Explorer install involves non-trivial changes to Windows and, therefore, involves some risk. But so far, I haven't seen or heard of major compatibility issues with this version.

■■■

Many older electronic devices draw a non-trivial amount of electricity all the time they're plugged in, even when turned off. As a result, upgrading from an old cathode-ray-tube TV to a new, considerably larger flat-panel set can lower your electric bill.

(If you are in the market for some new gadget, make sure to check out the electrical-consumption figures posted on the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star product database.)

But not everybody wants to or can spend a lot of money upfront just to save a little bit of money every month thereafter.

Fortunately, you don't have to. Some of the simpler energy-saving techniques available to you don't require spending anything at all. You can start by unplugging the oldest gadgets in your house when you're not using them. That TV upstairs that only gets used for viewing the occasional exercise video? Keep it unplugged—along with the vintage VCR or DVD player underneath it—when it's not in use.

Setting your computer to go into sleep or standby mode automatically is another zero-cost, near-zero-effort remedy. (Note to Windows XP users: I know, that's not the most reliable operating system when it comes to napping and then waking up afterwards. But if nothing else, you can set your monitor to power down automatically.)

Finally, take a minute or two to unplug your cable or DSL modem and wireless router before you head out of town for a long weekend.

I know there are folks out there who don't want a lecture about their ecological responsibility. So I'll close with the point I've made before: This all comes down to a simple question of whether you'd like to hand over more or less of your income to your electric company. You don't need to be a good environmentalist to want to use less electricity (though that doesn't hurt); you just need to recognize the value of a dollar saved.

These shoes are made for talking...to your phone

NEW YORK (AP)—A startup is working on a product that can tell you exactly what it's like to walk a mile in someone else's shoes—because the insoles record every touch of pressure.

ESoles Inc., which makes custom insoles for athletic shoes, has created prototype insoles with pressure sensors that relay their information wirelessly to a nearby cell phone. Then an application on the phone can tell the wearer how much pressure he or she is applying in 11 different zones of each sole.

The system has been used to analyze the technique of the U.S. Olympic BMX team, helping them figure out how to apply maximum power to the bicycle pedals out of the gate, said Glen Hinshaw, founder of in Scottsdale, Ariz.-based eSoles and a former professional cyclist.

The system can also analyze a golf swing or skiing posture, Hinshaw said.

Sports aren't the only application—the insoles can work in games. ESoles is trying a jump rope game, in which the phone screen shows a swinging rope, and users have to time their jumps to it.

"If you leave one leg on the ground and you're only lifting the other foot, the jump rope stops, because it's not clearing your foot," Hinshaw said.

Nintendo Co. makes a balance board accessory for its Wii game console that senses the force from the user's feet. ESoles' sensing insoles would essentially do the same thing, but without tying the user to an immobile board.

Hinshaw also envisions medical uses—perhaps for warning diabetes patients who have lost feeling in their feet that they risk injury from too much pressure.

Hinshaw said the company plans to make the insoles available in a limited trial version in July, then take them fully commercial late this year. The initial price for the sensors would be about $300, but he hopes to bring the price under $50.

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

†ANA IGISAIR KILELEMAN

Wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all our relatives, friends and neighbors for their kind expression love, sympathy, personal assistance and support during this difficult time of sorrow in the passing of our beloved in the caring hands of our Creator.

Our special thanks to Rev. Fr. Isaac, Fr. Charlie, the members of St. Jude Friends' Choir under the direction of Lou Saures, the confraternity of the Christian Mothers of St. Jude parish, Herman's Bakery catering, Cabrera Funeral Services, Mt. Carmel Cathedral Chancery staff, the técha Josefa Camacho and the CHC doctors and nurses for their compassion and care.

And to all-who have supported us in one way or another, for your presence at the nightly rosary, the Eucharistic Celebration of her life and placing her to rest and most especially for your offering of mass and prayers. The many acts of kindness and generosity gave us the strength and courage to endure our loss.

May God continue to bless us all!

THE FAMILY

Life & Style

Gold's Gym Body Success Challenge competitors lose 469 lbs

The results of Gold's Gym Saipan's "2009 Body Success Challenge" were recently announced and more than $10,000 in cash and prizes were awarded. The 32 individuals who completed the competition lost a combined total weight of 469 lbs.

The Body Success Challenge was primarily a three-month weight loss competition where substantial cash and prizes were awarded to men and women who lost the most weight as a percentage of their original starting weight. In addition, there was a "Most Amazing Body Transformation" category that awarded prizes to the person who lost the most fat, gained the most lean body mass (muscle), and had the most visibly impressive body transformation based upon their before and after photos.

Of the 60 initial competitors, 32 completed the competition by weighing-out and taking their "after photos" exactly three months after their initial weigh-in date. Participants did not have to be Gold's Gym members.

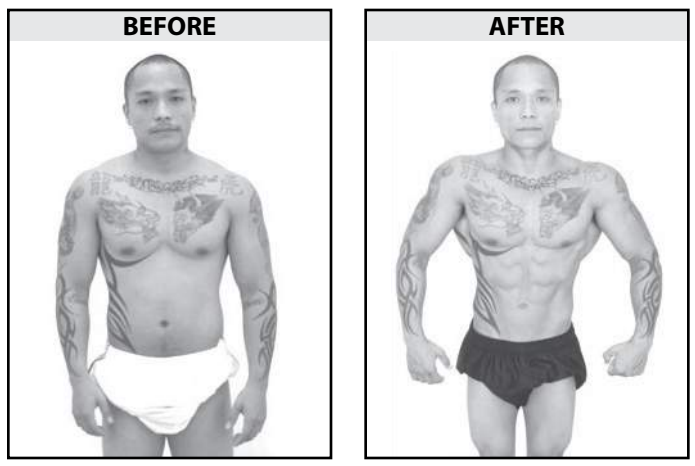
Gold's Gym co-owners Eric Plinske and Josephine Togawa said "We are extremely proud of all our competitors and absolutely amazed with some of the body transformations that have taken place." Plinske cited the generous contributions of co-sponsors, including Coca-Cola, Subway, Shell, Michelob Ultra, and Fiji Water.

Prizes were up for grabs in separate weight loss categories, including: women ages 16 to 39; men ages 16 to 39; women ages 40 and above; and men ages 40 and above.

The weight loss prizes were awarded for most weight lost as a percentage of original starting weight: 1st place (each category) was $1,000 cash and a free 1-year Gold's Gym membership and 2nd place (each category) was $500 cash and a free six-month Gold's Gym membership. The prize for the Most Amazing Body Transformation Category (one overall winner) was $1,000 cash and a 1-year Gold's Gym membership. Following are the winners for each of the categories:

For more information about the Body Success Challenge or Gold's Gym, call 233-4000, e-mail manager@goldsgym-saipan.com, or visit Gold's Gym Saipan located at Garapan Central Park. ***(PR)***

MOST AMAZING BODY TRANSFORMATION:



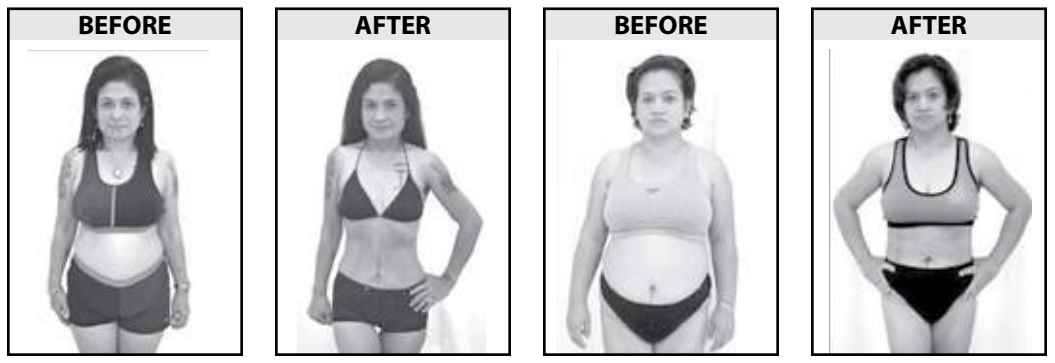
Overall Winner: Andrew Fojas (lost 14.60 lbs, lost 51.61 percent of body fat, and lost 9.68 percent of initial body weight)

WOMEN AGES 16 TO 39:

1st Place – Nadya Manglona (lost 20 lbs and lost 14.10 percent of initial body weight)

2nd Place – Nessea Cruz (lost 17.60 lbs and lost 12.87 percent of initial body weight)

WOMEN AGES 40 AND ABOVE:



1st Place – Fe Elenzano (lost 28 lbs and lost 21.34 percent of initial body weight)

2nd Place – Fely Santos (lost 27.80 lbs and lost 19.09 percent of initial body weight)

MEN AGES 16 TO 39:

1st Place – Charles Peters (lost 45.20 lbs and lost 16.13 percent of initial body weight)

2nd Place – Thomas Rabauliman (lost 45.20 lbs and lost 13.83 percent of initial body weight)

MEN AGES 40 AND ABOVE:

1st Place – John Davis (lost 20.60 lbs and lost 7.15 percent of initial body weight)

2nd Place – Eduardo Elenzano (lost 10.80 lbs and lost 6.53 percent of initial body weight)

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Angels and Demons

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:05	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:05	

Tom Hanks, Ewan McGregor
Thriller, Religion • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

When Robert Langdon discovers evidence of the resurgence of an ancient secret brotherhood known as the Illuminati—the most powerful underground organization in history—he also faces a deadly threat to the existence of the secret organization's most despised enemy: the Catholic Church. When Langdon learns that the clock is ticking on an unstoppable Illuminati time bomb, he jets to Rome, where he joins forces with Vittoria Vetra, a beautiful and enigmatic Italian scientist.

★ ★ ★

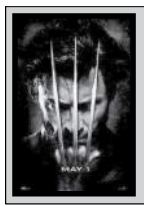
Star Trek

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Chris Pine, Winona Ryder
Sci-Fi, Adaptation • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

The story of a young crew's maiden voyage onboard the most advanced starship ever created: the U.S.S. Enterprise. On a journey filled with cosmic peril, the new recruits must find a way to stop an evil being whose mission of vengeance threatens all of mankind. The fate of the galaxy rests in the hands of bitter rivals. One, James T. Kirk, is a delinquent, thrill-seeking Iowa farm boy.



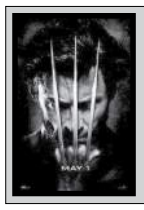
X-Men Origins:Wolverine

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

X-Men Origins: Wolverine, the first chapter in the X-Men saga, unites Wolverine with several other legends of the X-Men Universe, in an epic revolution that pits the mutants against powerful forces determined to eliminate them.



X-Men Origins:Wolverine

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

T-2 (Tenement 2)

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Maricel Soriano, Mika Dela Cruz
Action, Adventure • Rated NR

Fighting

Friday		4:15	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Channing Tatum, Terrence Howard
Urban, Crime • Rated PG 13

Ghost of Girlfriends Past

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:40
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:15	9:40
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Matthew McConaughhey, Jennifer Garner
Romantic, Comedy • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

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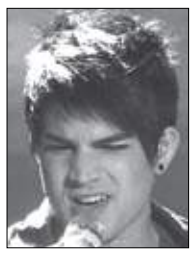
Final 2 'American Idol' singers selected

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Danny Gokey is dancing off "American Idol," leaving showy Adam Lambert and twangy Kris Allen to duke it out in the finale of the popular Fox singing competition next week.

Gokey, the bespectacled 29-year-old church music director and recent widower from Milwaukee, was revealed to have received the fewest viewer votes on Wednesday.

Gokey had continually impressed the judges with his husky voice—but not his hip shaking—throughout the contest. "Idol" judge Simon Cowell called his cover of Joe Cocker's version of "You Are So Beautiful" on Tuesday a "vocal master class" but said his dancing during Terence Trent D'Arby's "Dance Little Sister" was "desperate."


Lambert

Allen

Along with Lambert, Gokey had long been considered to be a frontrunner of the eighth season, never appearing as one of the show's bottom vote-getters. "Idol" host Ryan Seacrest said more than 88 million votes were received with 1 million votes separating the top two singers, meaning next week's Lambert-Allen showdown may be closer than anticipated.

"Look, none of us would have predicted this, guys," Cowell at the end of the show.

The episode kicked off with "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian" stars Ben Stiller, Hank Azaria, Bill Hader and Jonah Hill starring in a plug masquerading as a skit about the "Idol" judges' desk being inducted into the Smithsonian. It wasn't a joke. The perch will be on display at the Smithsonian Institution Building in the coming weeks.

Before the results viewers saw Alicia Keys urging fans to support her charity, a 15-year-old Rwandan rapper named Noah, sixth-season champ Jordin Sparks, videos of the final three singers' trips to their hometowns and an over-the-top performance by Katy Perry.

Gokey just wanted to cut to the chase.

3 plead not guilty in Anna Nicole Smith drug case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anna Nicole Smith's lawyer-turned-boyfriend and two doctors pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges they conspired to provide thousands of prescription pills to the former model before her overdose death two years ago.

The appearance of Howard K. Stern and Drs. Khristine Eroshevich and Sandeep Kapoor in Superior Court set the stage for a preliminary hearing that all parties said could last at least two weeks.

Deputy District Attorney Renee Rose said there are 1,400 pages of discovery in the case, which was investigated for two years before charges were filed. Court Commissioner Kristi Lousteau ordered documents in the case sealed, although attorneys said that about a quarter of the material has already been made public.

The hearing was brief and Smith's name was never mentioned.

Stern, Eroshevich and Kapoor stood before Lousteau with their lawyers. The defendants said "yes" when she asked if they were pleading not guilty and when they agreed to delay the matter until June 8 for setting of the preliminary hearing date. They declined to comment outside court.

Stern's lawyer, Steve Sadow, said he wanted the preliminary hearing to begin as soon as possible.

The commissioner granted a motion requiring each defendant to provide a handwriting sample and she transferred the case to a judge for the next hearing.

Mad about MAD, LA man builds a dream out of CDs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's always been a mad MAD world for Neil Cuadra.

The 55-year-old Internet entrepreneur has photographed a portrait he made of MAD magazine mascot Alfred E. Neuman's head using junk mail CDs and DVDs and sent it to the magazine, a feat that landed him in the magazine's 500th issue, published in April.

"You just blew our mind. You used junk mail from AOL to create a piece of art that became junk mail to us," the magazine's editors said in a footnote to his letter.

Cuadra, who runs a business creating information retrieval software, said in a recent interview that he was inspired a dozen years ago by a MAD parody poking fun at a fledgling Internet service provider called AOL for mailing CDs to people by the millions, offering them 500 hours of free connection to a newfangled thing called the Web.

The self-professed computer geek with a Ph.D in computer science saved about 2,000 junk mail CDs and DVDs over years. When Internet use went viral and the AOL disc supply dried up, Cuadra started saving any other disc he could scrounge, adding to his collection an Army recruitment video and an ad for a car.

"I didn't need the car but I needed the disc, so I popped it into the pile," the computer scientist recalled.

AP

This undated image provided by Neil Cuadra shows Cuadra in Los Angeles with his "MAD Magazine mascot Alfred E. Neuman" mural created with thousands of old CDs, which was published in the Letters to the Editor section of MAD Magazine 500th issue.

Pageant official quits over Miss. Calif. decision

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former Miss USA Shanna Moakler resigned as co-executive director of the Miss California USA pageant on Wednesday, saying she no longer believes in the organization because of pageant owner Donald Trump's decision to let the state's controversial title holder keep her crown.

Moakler

After Miss California USA Carrie Prejean created a stir with her response to a question about gay marriage at last month's Miss USA pageant, questions about her work with gay marriage opponents and nearly nude photos taken of her when she was a teenager put her title in jeopardy.

At a news conference Monday, Moakler angrily accused Prejean of violating the contract she signed with pageant organizers, but Trump announced Tuesday that Prejean would keep her title.

Moakler, the Miss USA of 1995, said she decided after Trump's news conference to quit.

"I cannot with a clear conscience move forward supporting and promoting the Miss Universe Organization when I no longer believe in it or the contracts I signed committing myself as a youth," she said in a statement issued by her publicist. "I want to be a role model for young women with high hopes of pageantry, but now feel it more important to be a role model for my children."

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Beyonce, T.I. lead BET Awards nominees with 5 each

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For Beyonce and T.I., No. 1 is followed by five—BET Awards nominations, that is.

The two entertainers, who each who scored No. 1 hit songs and videos this year, lead BET Awards nominees with five each.

Beyonce also counts a No. 1 film among her recent credits: "Obsessed," which topped the box office when it opened last month.

Beyonce

The 27-year-old singer is up for female R&B artist, actress, the viewer's choice award and video of the year, where she has nods for both "Single Ladies (Put a Ring On It)" and "If I Were a Boy."

T.I. has two nominations for best collaboration—with Rihanna for "Live Your Life" and with Yung L.A. and Young Dro for "Ain't I."

The 28-year-old rapper is also up for male hip-hop artist, the viewer's choice award and video of the year.

Lil Wayne, T-Pain and Keri Hilson have four nominations each. Other multiple nominees include Jennifer Hudson, Jazmine Sullivan, Kanye West, Keyshia Cole and Jamie Foxx, who is set to host the show on June 28 at the Shrine Auditorium.

Foxx is up for male R&B artist, along with best collaboration and video of the year for his hit with T-Pain, "Blame It."

Alicia Keys asks 'Idol' fans to text for charity

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Alicia Keys wants $5 from every "American Idol" fan.

The Grammy-winning singer appeared on the hit Fox show Wednesday to urge viewers to support the Text ALIVE Challenge, which aims to bring medicine and medical care to children and families with HIV/AIDS in Africa and India.

Keys

Keys asked fans to text the word "alive" to 90999 to donate $5 to Keep a Child Alive, the charity she cofounded and for which she serves as global ambassador. She also introduced a beneficiary of the charity, 15-year-old Rwandan rapper Noah, who performed on the show.

Keys began the Text ALIVE Challenge while touring with her latest album, "As I Am."

"It was really the first time anything like that had been done," Keys said in an interview Wednesday. "It was successful enough to encourage us to keep spreading the word in a forum like this."

The seeds of her "Idol" appearance were planted last year at Keys' annual charity gala, the Black Ball, where "Idol" creator Simon Fuller was honored. Noah performed at the event, and Fuller "was so taken by his story" that he invited Noah to appear on the hit show, Keys said.

His appearance with Keys also re-introduces a charitable element to the show. Its annual fundraising program, "Idol Gives Back," was canceled in December. Last year's broadcast raised more than $64 million and featured an all-star lineup including Bono, Brad Pitt and Miley Cyrus.

"This was kind of a way to keep a give-back element in effect and for Noah to be seen and heard," Keys said, adding that the teen entertainer sings about the AIDS pandemic and life in Rwanda.

"He's dealt with probably more than any of us will ever have to in our entire lifetime," she said. "For us to help people like him in his situation with Keep a Child Alive, and with everyone watching being able to know that even with all the hardships they might be going through, there's always someone going through something far worse, so to help someone other than yourself is really a noble thing to do."

Giving just $5 makes it easy for people from almost all economic strata to help, she said.

Paulina Porizkova say she was fired by 'Top Model'

NEW YORK (AP)—Paulina Porizkova got a pink slip from "America's Next Top Model." That's what the model-actress said Tuesday night on CBS' "The Late Late Show," dropping this bombshell to host Craig Ferguson: "Do you know why I'm in Los Angeles, besides seeing you? ... Because I'm looking for a job. Because I was fired by 'America's Next Top Model' on my birthday."

Porizkova

Porizkova, who turned 44 on April 9, joined the judges' panel of the popular model-scouting series last year. Wednesday night's 12th season finale on the CW network marks her final appearance.

According to Porizkova, the firing happened over the phone.

"Just to be fair here, the reason I was told I was fired was because ... it seemed that 'America's Next Top Model' had gotten too fat and they needed to cut some fat—and the fat was me," she explained to Ferguson.

Porizkova judged the crop of 'Top Model' wannabes alongside fashion insiders J. Alexander, Nigel Barker and the show's creator and host, Tyra Banks.

Show representatives Jeff Tobler and Chelsea Hettrick declined to comment beyond confirming Porizkova's departure. The supermodel's publicist, Meghan Prophet, did not return a phone call regarding Tuesday's announcement.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Attorney: Rob Lowe, former nanny dismiss lawsuits

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An attorney for Rob Lowe says dueling lawsuits between the actor and a former nanny have been dismissed. Larry Stein confirmed Tuesday that the cases involving Jessica Gibson have been dismissed. He didn't provide details. Gibson was a nanny for Lowe's children. The 45-year-old "Brothers and Sisters" actor filed a defamation lawsuit in April 2008 claiming she demanded $1.5 million to remain silent about sexual abuse allegations later included in her countersuit. Gibson says Lowe touched her inappropriately several times between September 2005 and January 2008. A lawsuit filed against another former nanny remains active. Gibson's attorney didn't immediately return an e-mail seeking comment. People.com first reported the dismissals.

Kanye West doesn't like Twitter—or impostors

NEW YORK (AP)—Kanye West doesn't like impostors. And he doesn't care much for Twitter, either. In a blog posting, the outspoken rapper railed against the micro-blogging site for allowing users to set up accounts under fake names. West called on the site to take down the user tweeting under his name—and Twitter listened. The user—named KanyeWest—was suspended Wednesday. The site doesn't allow impersonation, but does allow parody impersonations clearly meant as a joke. Fake celebrity Twitter accounts have been a fact of life for the rapidly growing Twitter, but the site says it's working to combat the problem. Twitter co-founder Biz Stone said in an e-mail that Twitter is looking at how best to implement an account verification system. Either way, West doesn't plan to join. He said he's "too busy actually being creative most of the time" and that "everything that Twitter offers I need less of."

'Lost' season-ender: Bombshells and new mysteries

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC's "Lost" is blowing the story wide open, not to mention its mysterious island. If you haven't seen it yet, you may not want to know the details of Wednesday's season-ender. But for those who do, here's a sample: Jack Shephard pulls off his mission to explode a hydrogen bomb. Almost certainly killed in the blast is Juliet, the character played by Elizabeth Mitchell the past three seasons. And power rivals Ben and John meet with Jacob, the never-before-seen boss of the island. Then Ben stabs him to death. The two-hour episode packs plenty of answers, but even more questions for "Lost" fans to ponder until its return next season.

Robin Williams jokes about his heart surgery

NEW YORK (AP)—Robin Williams, who had heart surgery eight weeks ago, says he and David Letterman "are now brotherhood of the zipper chests." Williams, appearing on CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman" scheduled to air Wednesday, was referring to Letterman's quintuple bypass heart surgery in 2000. It was the 57-year-old actor's first interview since surgery that replaced an aortic valve. He joked that "I have one new valve and a repaired valve. I have a cow valve, which is great, and the grazing's been fun." Williams said he noticed something was wrong with his heart when he was getting short of breath, "code for heart problem." Williams stars in the film "Night at the Museum 2: Battle of the Smithsonian," which opens May 22.

Wanda Sykes and wife welcome twins

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Wanda Sykes and wife Alex are the parents of twins. Sykes' publicist, Danica Smith, says the babies, daughter Olivia Lou and son Lucas Claude, were born April 27. Smith says Alex gave birth to the twins and "all are happy and healthy and at home." The twins are the first children for the couple, who married last October Sykes served as the tart-tongued entertainer at Saturday's annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner. The Emmy-winning 45-year-old comedian-actress co-stars with Julia Louis-Dreyfus on CBS' "The New Adventures of Old Christine." She will host an as-yet-untitled Saturday late-night show on Fox next fall.

Woman living back home wants nights with boyfriend

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 21-year-old woman who just moved back home after two years of living and learning on my own. My family has been wonderful to accept me back into their home until I finish my studies in a few months, after which I assume I'll be getting a job and my own place.

I have an amazing boyfriend, "Jordan," with whom I would love to spend some nights. I'm afraid if I do I would be disrespecting my parents' wishes—my father is a preacher—but at the same time I feel restricted because I got used to being on my own and doing what I wanted.

I know a few months doesn't sound like a long time, but what if I can't get a job right away and have to stay here longer? Jordan and I aren't ready to move in together, but we'd like some overnight visits. What do you think?

GROWN-UP GIRL IN KENTUCKY

DEAR GROWN-UP GIRL: Have your parents met Jordan? Do they like him? If they have and they do, it would make things easier on you. You should definitely respect your father's position and sensitivities. A more acceptable compromise than spending "nights out" might be for you and Jordan to arrange some weekend getaways together. Of this I am certain: Young love will find a way.

DEAR ABBY: I am a man who, for 46 years, has been celebrating my birthday on Aug. 31. I recently took a trip to Northern California to visit my older sister. While we were talking about our birthdays and our late parents, my sister dropped a bombshell. She informed me that my birthday was NOT Aug. 31, but actually Sept. 1—like hers.

As you can imagine, I was shocked. Why would my own mother lie to me about something as important as my own date of birth? Mom even went so far as to have the doctor change the date on my birth certificate! My two older brothers confirmed it.

I am devastated at the dishonesty. Why would a mother do such a thing? Celebrating my birthday will never be the same again.

SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS IN SYRACUSE

DEAR SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS: If I had to guess, I'd say your mother was trying to do you a favor. She didn't want you and your sister to have to share a birthday; she wanted each of you to have your own special day.

What I find disconcerting is that the doctor would go along with it because a birth certificate is a legal document, and to change it is not only a breach of ethics, but also against the law.

DEAR ABBY: I am being married in October and asked my matron of honor's daughter "Crystal" to sing at my wedding. However, she has not yet bothered to learn the song we requested.

Another young woman at our church has a much better voice, already knows the words and has offered to sing for us. I want to tell my friend that Crystal isn't taking this seriously and I would like to hire the other singer, but I'm afraid she will be offended. How do I approach this subject?

NERVOUS BRIDE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR NERVOUS: To accuse your matron of honor's daughter of shirking her responsibility half a year before the wedding would be jumping the gun and cause hard feelings. If Crystal hasn't learned the lyrics by the end of August, tell her mother then that you feel the young woman hasn't taken the honor seriously and you have found someone who already knows the song. So calm down, secure in the knowledge that you have a qualified understudy standing in the wings if your first choice is unprepared.

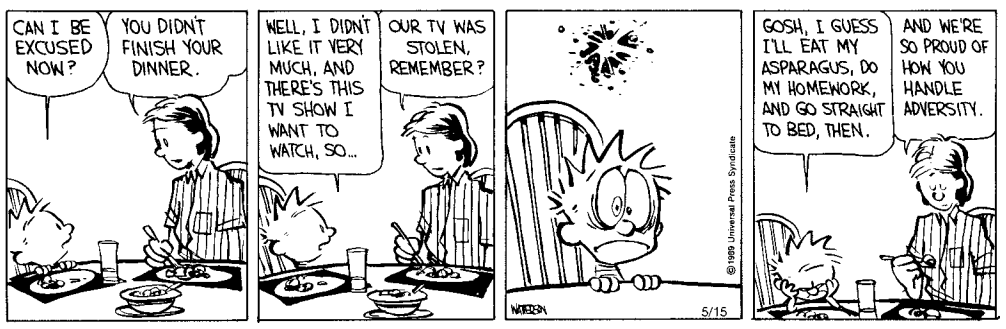
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CAN I BE EXCUSED NOW?
YOU DIDN'T FINISH YOUR DINNER.
WELL, I DIDN'T LIKE IT VERY MUCH, AND THERE'S THIS TV SHOW I WANT TO WATCH, SO...
OUR TV WAS STOLEN, REMEMBER?
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WATTERSON
5/15
GOSH, I GUESS I'LL EAT MY ASPARAGUS, DO MY HOMEWORK, AND GO STRAIGHT TO BED, THEN.
AND WE'RE SO PROUD OF HOW YOU HANDLE ADVERSITY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

CLAYTON AND KATY, IT'S TIME TO WALK THE PRETEND DOG!
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HAVE CLAYTON DO IT! IT'S HIS TURN!
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5-15
CLAYTON, COME ON. IT'S YOUR TURN. IF YOU WANT A REAL DOG...
BUT DAD, LOOK OUTSIDE! THERE'S PRETEND LIGHTNING EVERYWHERE!
BRACELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT KIND OF WINE DO YOU WANT TO HAVE WITH OUR DINNER?
GLENN McCOY
WHAT KIND OF DINNER DO YOU WANT WITH OUR BEER?
5-15-09
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 UNLV part
4 More, to Manuel
7 Summoned
12 Under the weather
13 Pismire
14 Harden
15 Greek cross
16 Drilling ordeal
18 "Let me see, ..."
19 Have a frog in your throat?
20 "My bad"
22 Spring mo.
23 Snapshots
27 Moose's cousin
29 Tooth problem
31 Split to unite?
34 No liability
35 See 29 Across
37 Barracks bed
38 Taj Mahal city
39 You can tie one on in Japan
41 Top
45 Less than 90 degrees
47 Thanksgiving veggie
48 Field of canines?
52 Fella
53 Romantic encounter
54 Calendar abbr.
55 First lady
56 Horse-drawn carriage
57 Tee preceder
58 Embarrassed

DOWN
1 Print of a sort
2 "Cradle of Texas Liberty"
3 Consecutive losses
4 Painter Chagall
5 Parka
6 Porch
7 Choose
8 Literary collection
9 Holster occupant
10 Important period
11 First st.
17 2009 bailout acronym
21 Dividing walls
23 Trattoria offering
24 Smart figs.
25 Prompt
26 Prepared
28 Grazing site
30 "The 7 Faces of Dr. —"
31 Greek vowel
32 Trail the pack
33 Bobby of hockey
36 Fabulous fliers
37 Fruit category
40 Montana city
42 Computer-related
43 Purple shade
44 Stick in
45 Ethereal
46 Spotters
48 Apply lightly
49 Flightless bird
50 Yule beverage
51 Yank

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	O	A	■	B	O	L	L	■	T	A	C	T
A	W	L	■	O	B	O	E	■	A	G	A	R
A	L	L	O	W	I	N	G	■	L	U	R	E
■	■	■	U	R	L	■	G	A	L	L	E	R	Y
B	A	R	B	E	R	■	L	A	Y	■	■	■
A	L	I	■	R	U	N	■	C	H	A	F	E
B	A	N	G	■	E	E	L	■	O	L	L	A
A	R	G	U	E	■	■	T	E	A	■	L	I	S
■	■	■	S	A	G	■	O	B	J	E	C	T
M	A	E	S	T	R	O	■	L	O	G	■	■
A	C	M	E	■	A	L	L	A	Y	I	N	G
S	N	I	T	■	D	I	A	Z	■	N	E	A
H	E	R	S	■	S	O	M	E	■	G	O	B

Yesterday's answer 5-15

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10	11
12			■	13			■	14				
15			■	16			17					
18			■	19					■	■	■	■
20			21	■	22			■	23	24	25	26
■	■	■	27	28		■	29	30				
31	32	33			■	■	■	34				
35					36	■	37			■	■	■
38				■	39	40		■	41	42	43	44
■	■	■	■	45				46	■	47		
48	49	50	51						■	52		
53					■	54			■	55		
56					■	57			■	58		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jamie-Lynn Sigler, 28; David Krumholtz, 31; David Charvet, 37; Trini Lopez, 72

Happy Birthday: Choose your words and your friends wisely. Focus on what's important to you and how you can make advances without upsetting people you care for. Being more visible will help you gain trust and support. An opportunity will be made available to you but it isn't likely to please some of the people it will affect. Your numbers are 3, 11, 17, 26, 32, 34, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Strive for equality. Don't let anyone tell you that you aren't worth much. Reevaluate your connection to anyone who questions your motives, whereabouts or beliefs. Your charm and drive are a winning combination. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't leave anything to chance, especially if it has to do with your personal and professional future. You have to take responsibility for whatever you do or say and be prepared to back your ideas and statements up with facts. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Explore the marketplace for the right item to buy or destination to visit or course to sign up for and you will be motivated and stimulated to get things done. Once you have something to look forward to, your work will be a lot easier. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Proceed with caution when signing contracts or with deals that are binding. Consider professional options that will allow you greater freedom. You can incorporate something you love into a profitable pastime or hobby. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Whether in a couple or single, focus on having fun and enhancing your personal life. Travel, getting involved in an event or activity you enjoy or just spending quality time with that special someone will lead to a brighter future. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make some changes at home that will help you improve your lifestyle. A job you've been left with can alter your position and improve your finances. Mixing business with pleasure will help you out on both counts. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Set your priorities straight and plan for a fun-filled weekend. You may be tempted to overspend. Don't let anyone coerce you into a purchase you don't need. Set your sights on romance, not shopping and you will come out on top. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't get dragged into an argument or family feud. You will do far better working rather than trying to sort through the emotional debris that someone creates. Find out how well you work with someone before developing a partnership. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): See, believe and follow through with your plans. A short trip will pay off. A good time is in the stars but don't promise someone something you have no intention of delivering or you'll pay a high price in the end. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Focus on what you need in your life to feel good about who you are and the way you look. Put time and effort into pleasing and pampering yourself. The results will be greater confidence and a better outlook. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll be confused by what someone you thought you knew does or tells you. Back up and ask questions until you fully understand what's being said and done. A past friend will confide in you. Emotional encounters will bring back old memories. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Volunteering for something you believe in will help you in more ways than one. You will meet someone spectacular if you pitch in and help a good cause. Don't give in too quickly to what may appear to be a simple request. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined to succeed. You are passionate about your concerns and know how to implement change. You are a clever negotiator.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4					
		9				5		
	8		5	9			7	
8		3			4			
		2				3		
			8			4		1
	1			7	3		8	
		4				9		
					2			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	4	6	9	2	7	5	1	8
8	2	7	5	4	1	3	6	9
1	9	5	8	6	3	4	7	2
4	1	9	3	8	6	7	2	5
5	6	2	7	1	4	9	8	3
7	8	3	2	9	5	6	4	1
9	3	4	1	7	2	8	5	6
2	7	8	6	5	9	1	3	4
6	5	1	4	3	8	2	9	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SILK NIGHTGOWNS **Solution: 7 letters**

S	A	M	A	J	A	P	F	I	G	U	R	I	N	E
E	E	S	U	N	D	E	R	W	I	R	E	K	U	U
E	N	L	H	O	N	E	Y	M	O	O	N	Q	V	Q
G	P	I	F	E	R	O	L	O	C	E	I	T	T	I
I	A	E	F	F	E	I	C	O	E	T	N	R	N	T
L	R	D	R	E	U	R	O	T	N	A	I	I	E	U
G	T	A	G	C	I	R	L	A	Ⓖ	M	M	K	N	O
E	S	M	O	L	D	R	L	A	T	Ⓘ	E	S	I	B
N	G	D	W	I	L	E	E	P	I	H	Ⓕ	E	T	E
E	N	N	N	E	R	A	C	G	S	R	G	Ⓣ	N	D
V	I	A	S	H	O	R	T	A	N	I	E	I	E	R
E	T	H	O	N	O	M	I	K	L	I	R	T	L	O
E	A	E	C	I	D	O	B	E	S	O	L	C	A	O
L	S	T	N	E	C	U	L	S	N	A	R	T	V	M
S	G	N	I	N	E	V	E	T	A	C	I	L	E	D

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Antique, Bedroom, Bodice, Boutique, Care, Close, Collectible, Color, Coordinate, Crepe, Crisp, Delicate, Evening, Feminine, Figurine, Fine, Gift, Gown, Handmade, Honeymoon, Kimono, Knee, Lace, Light, Lingerie, Material, Negligees, Pajamas, Ruffles, Satin, Sheer, Short, Skirt, Sleeve, Strap, Tall, Translucent, Trim, Underwire, Valentine

Yesterday's Answer: Boxers

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Accountant immediately
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4-6 years experience or CPA
I.R. or U.S. citizen in preferred.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Open: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 Close: Tuesday, May 26, 2009

JVA No. 09-014 : Meter Technician
JVA No. 09-015 : Administrative Support Assistant

Location: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Power Division, Saipan.

For information on the duties and minimum qualifications, please stop by the Human Resources Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

r × i + s − k =

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Find today's solution in this section

Vacancy Announcement

Connecting Families Inc., private non-profit organization is looking for a committed and self-motivated individual to fill the fulltime position of MONITOR for the Family Visitation Center.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENT:
Bachelor's of Science in any field related to Social Services, Criminal Justice, Sociology, or other, and at least two years experience and/or equivalent.

Individual must be available to work nights and weekends. Individual must have an excellent written and verbal communication and inter-personal skills. Experience with working with children and victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking is also recommended.

Interested applicants must submit their resume with a cover letter and at least one letter of recommendation on or before **Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at the Family Court Division,** 1st floor, Guma Justicia (Court House) in Susupe, attention Patrick V. Diaz.

Applicant must be able to attend training on May 27, 28, and 29, 2009.

For more information, please contact Neda B. Camacho, Executive Director, 322-5437 or 285-4663.

MOVING SALE

Everything must go. 1991 Toyota Land Cruiser $1,800. 32 LCD TV, 300watt DVD, CD surround system and quality glass stand $800. Fishing gear, microwave, laptop, ice chest, best offer. Contact Ken 322-0961.

TV, tables, clothes, home appliances, kitchenware, curtains, toys, books, bags, shoes, and more! Call 2342220. From May 16-25, 2009.

AUTOMOTIVE

96 or Newer Truck. Must have A/C. Must in reasonable condition. Call 287-7785.

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Tired of blackouts? For sale new Xantrex 2,400VA inverter charger. Best on the market. Will supply uninterupted power throughout typhoons and the daily outages soon to come with the end of the Aggreko contract. $1,200. Contact Ken 322-0961.

DRUNK DRIVING
Over the limit. Under arrest.

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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EMPLOYMENT

Seeking experienced autobody repairer. Must be experienced with rust repairs, some paint experienced preferred. Contact 287-7785.

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WE MAKE:
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Learn about the telecommunications industry and get paid!

IT&E has summer jobs available for high school and college students!

Students must
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- provide a recommendation, preferably from a prior instructor, advisor, principal, or dean;
- be currently enrolled in high school or college or show proof of enrollment for Fall 2009;
- be U.S. Citizens or legally allowed to work in the CNMI.

Some positions may require a valid CNMI driver's license.

Interested candidates must complete an IT&E application and submit it, along with the other required documents, to the IT&E Human Resource Office located at the IT&E Susupe Headquarters by Friday, May 22, 2009, 5:00 p.m. Late applications will not be accepted. For questions, please call 234-6600.

IT&E is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-017

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Food Service Management Companies (FSMC's) to provide food services for the School Breakfast and Lunch Program at all eligible schools on the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota for school year 2009-2010.

Beginning May 8, 2009, the detailed specifications are available on CD-ROM at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-017" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 3, 2009, 3:00 p.m. Any proposal received after this date and time will not be accepted.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting beginning at 8:30 a.m. on May 22, 3009 in the PSS Commissioner's Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building.

Procedural questions shall be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax to 664.3791 or e-mailed to "florian@saipan.com".

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public Shool System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-012

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Purchase and Installation of a Pad Mounted Transformer at Tinian High School**. The Scope of Work is available beginning April 29, 2009 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope marked "IFB 09-012" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than 10:00 AM, May 27, 2009. Any bid submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

There will be pre-bid meeting at 10:00 AM, May 20, 2009 in the PSS CIP Office in the 2nd Floor of the Retirement Fund Building. Technical Questions may be submitted at any time before this meeting and through May 22, 2009. Technical questions may be submitted to David Loan CIP Coordinator by fax to 664.3715 or by e-mail to "dfaloan@yahoo.com". Procedural questions may be submitted to Robert Florian, Procurement and Supply Officer by fax to 664.3791 or e-mail to florian@saipan.com.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-018

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Desktop Computers, Laptop Computers, Batteries, and Laptop Carts for Marianas High School.** The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

The bid form is set up as Items "A though D". Bidders may bid on some or all of the items.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-018"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 03, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.,** at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-013

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Construction of 5 New Classrooms at Tinian Elementary School**. The Scope of Work is available beginning April 29, 2009 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. Call ahead for the price of these plans and specifications to 233.7678.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope marked "IFB 09-013" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than 11:00 AM, May 27, 2009. Any bid submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

There will be pre-bid meeting at 10:00 AM, May 19, 2009 in the PSS CIP Office in the 2nd Floor of the Retirement Fund Building. Technical Questions may be submitted at any time before this meeting and through May, 22, 2009. Technical questions may be submitted to David Loan, CIP Coordinator by fax to 664.3715 or by e-mail to "dfaloan@yahoo.com. Procedural questions may be submitted to Robert Florian, Procurement and Supply Officer by fax to 664.3791 or e-mail to florian@saipan.com.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Nuggets reach first conference finals since 1985

DENVER (AP)—The Denver Nuggets are leaving all the animosity with the Dallas Mavericks' players, fans and owner behind and are heading to their first Western Conference finals since 1985. Behind 30 points from Carmelo Anthony and 28 from Chauncey Billups, the Nuggets beat the Mavericks 124-110 on Wednesday night to wrap up their semifinal series in five feisty games.

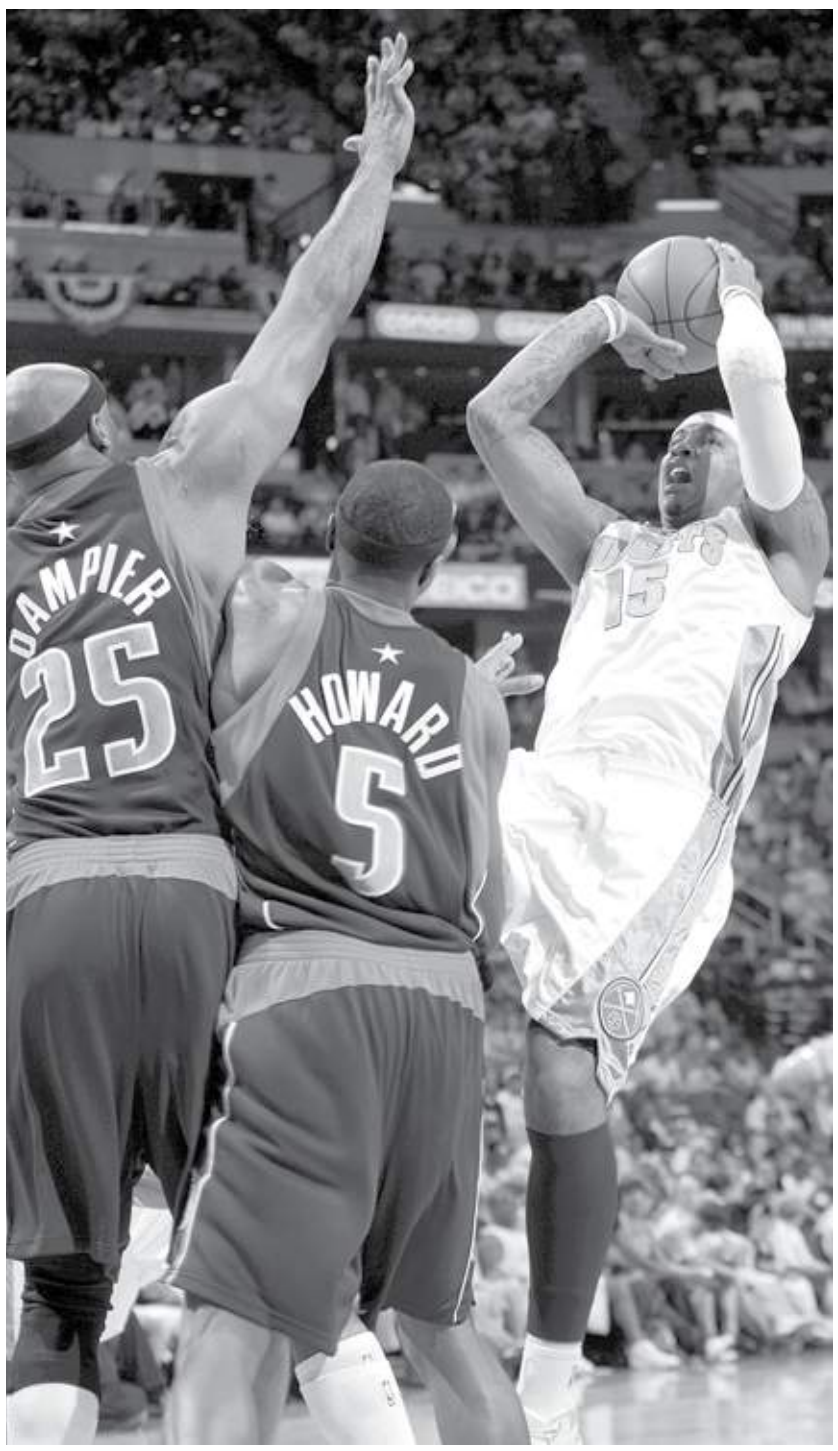
The Nuggets, who are 8-2 in the playoffs after tying their franchise record with a 54-win regular season, will face either Los Angeles or Houston for the conference championship.

"It's special. We worked hard in the offseason and training camp and throughout," Anthony said. "We stuck to everything, we overcame adversity, we stayed humble and our hard work paid off.

Winners of 16 straight games at the Pepsi Center, where no opponent has won since March 9, the Nuggets would start their next series on the road if the Lakers win, and at home if Houston does. The Lakers lead the series 3-2 with Game 6 Thursday night in Houston.

The Nuggets didn't dare dream of this type of success when the season began in November following the departures of defensive stalwarts Marcus Camby and Eduardo Najera.

Then came the biggest trade in team history, Allen Iverson to Detroit for Billups, who turned his hometown team from an afterthought into a championship contender after leading the Pistons to six straight Eastern Conference finals and the NBA championship in 2004.



Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony, right, falls back to make a shot over Dallas Mavericks center Erick Dampier, front left, and guard Josh Howard in the third quarter of the Nuggets' 124-110 victory in Game 5 of an NBA Western Conference semifinal in Denver on Wednesday, May 13, 2009.

AP

"He's a leader," Anthony said of Billups. "He came on this team and he brought a businesslike attitude to our team. He brought a defensive mind-set we were looking for."

Fired up from the ugliness on and off the court in Dallas in Games 3 and 4, the Nuggets came out in front of their home crowd with a passion and shot 64 percent in the first half while building a 69-55 lead.

The Mavericks wouldn't go down easily, though, making five straight 3-pointers, three by Jason Kidd, to pull within 79-72.

The Mavericks were within 103-97 with 7 minutes left but Anthony took the inbounds pass and with 2 seconds on the shot clock, hit a turnaround 25-foot jumper at the buzzer. Antoine Wright was assessed a technical and Billups' free throw made it a 10-point game with 6:35 left.

The Mavs didn't have another run in them, and their season grounded to a halt much sooner than they expected after dispatching San Antonio in five games in the first round.

Dirk Nowitzki had his usual monster game, scoring 32 points—he averaged 34.4 in the series—and Kidd added 19.

"It's not over, we're still on the road man," Billups said. "We are moving on to bigger and better things and hopefully we can remain successful."

Before the game, the NBA said it wouldn't punish anybody over the ugly incidents that occurred on and off the court in the games in Dallas, which included Mavs owner Mark Cuban throwing a fit after a non-call helped Denver win Game 3, when he also yelled at Kenyon Martin's mother.

In Game 4, Anthony shoved Wright to break away from his elbow clamp underneath the basket, resulting in one of a slew of technical fouls.

Cuban wasn't in Denver to hear from the Nuggets' fans Wednesday night as he skipped Game 5 to attend an awards ceremony in Las Vegas.

Cuban had written in his blog this week that the Nuggets' families and friends could sit in his private suite "when the series returns to Dallas."

There didn't appear to be any incidents with the crowd surrounding the Mavericks on Wednesday night other than a small giveaway plastic ball that bounced near their bench as the clock ticked off the final seconds.

Cavs star James leads All-NBA first team

NEW YORK (AP)—LeBron James should be getting used to sweeps by now. The Cavaliers star was a unanimous selection to the All-NBA first team Wednesday, after leading his team to a franchise-best regular-season record and a pair of playoff sweeps of the Detroit Pistons and Atlanta Hawks.

James was put on the first team on every ballot of 122 sportswriters and broadcasters who regularly cover the league. Lakers star Kobe Bryant finished second in voting, making the first team on 119 ballots, while Dwight Howard of the Magic, Dwyane Wade of the Heat and Dirk Nowitzki of the Mavericks rounded out the first team.

James was a first-team selection for the second straight season after finishing second in the NBA in scoring at 28.4 points and ranking in the top 10 in steals and assists. He led the Cavaliers to a franchise-best 66-16 record, including a 39-2 mark at home, and the team's first top seed in the playoffs.

"It doesn't surprise me at all," Cavaliers coach Mike Brown said of James, who in addition to winning MVP, finished second in voting for best defensive player. "It comes with being the MVP. He's proven he can do it all."

They've only been gaining momentum since then.

The Cavaliers made it 8-for-8 in the postseason Monday night, completing a second straight sweep with an 84-74 win over the Hawks. Along with their dominant sweep of Detroit, Cleveland has won an NBA-record eight consecutive playoff games by double figures.

The Cavs should be well-rested for the Eastern Conference finals against Boston or Orlando, a series the Celtics lead 3-2 entering Game 6 Thursday night.

Howard had 17 rebounds but just 12 points while taking only 10 shots in the Magic's 92-88 loss Tuesday night, but he's the biggest reason Orlando is still alive.

After becoming only the fourth player to lead the league in rebounding and blocked shots since 1973-74, when the block became an official statistic, the 6-foot-11 forward has averaged 20 points and leads all players with 16.1 rebounds in the postseason.

Bryant finished third in the league with 26.8 points, leading the Lakers to a Western Conference-best 65-17 finish.

He needed only three quarters to score 26 points Tuesday night, when the Lakers routed the Houston Rockets 118-78 to take a 3-2 lead in their series. They play Game 6 Thursday night.

Wade was a first-team selection for the first time after leading the league in scoring at 30.2 points, finishing second in steals and eighth in assists. He also became the fifth player in league history to reach 2,000 points, 500 assists, and 150 steals in a single season.

Nowitzki was the league's fourth-leading scorer and helped the Mavericks to a 50-32 finish.

"This is a great honor and means that you have played solid basketball for the whole season," Nowitzki said. "This is about being consistent and helping the team night in and night out."

Dallas beat the San Antonio Spurs in five games in the first round of the playoffs, but were on the brink of elimination entering Game 5 against the Nuggets on Wednesday night in Denver.

The All-NBA second team consisted of New Orleans guard Chris Paul, Brandon Roy of the Trail Blazers, Tim Duncan of the Spurs, Paul Pierce of the Celtics and Houston center Yao Ming, who sustained a season-ending stress fracture in his left foot in Game 3 against the Lakers.

The third team has Denver's Chauncey Billups and San Antonio's Tony Parker at guard, Denver's Carmelo Anthony and the Lakers' Pau Gasol at forward, and Shaquille O'Neal of the Suns at center.

Hundreds turn out to mourn Hall of Fame coach Daly

TEQUESTA, Fla. (AP)—Chuck Daly's team gathered around him one last time. Bill Laimbeer and Rick Mahorn were side by side on one end, Joe Dumars on the right, Isiah Thomas and Vinnie Johnson standing together a few feet back.

The Bad Boys were together again, not as players but pallbearers who gave their coach a sad, fond farewell.

"He was coaching all of us until the day he died," Thomas said. "He was a wonderful, wonderful human being and a great mentor, a great friend."

Hundreds of mourners paid tribute to the Hall of Fame coach Wednesday, including close friends like Billy Cunningham and Rollie Massimino, players from his 1989 and 1990 Detroit Pistons teams that won NBA titles, and even Rick Carlisle—a former Daly assistant who served as a pallbearer even though his Dallas Mavericks faced playoff elimination later that night.

Here's how much Daly meant to Carlisle: His team was in Denver, a playoff game was six hours away, and Carlisle was still in South Florida, helping carry his mentor out of the church.

"Missing this was not an option," Carlisle said as he walked briskly to a car that would take him to a waiting plane. He arrived in plenty of time for tipoff of Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinals.

Daly, 78, died Saturday in Jupiter, Fla., just north of West Palm Beach. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer earlier this year, spent his final weeks in rapidly diminishing health and often surrounded by friends and family.

His funeral was a veritable who's-who of basketball—players from his so-called "Bad Boys" Pistons teams were among the pallbearers—and the tribute was fitting. Many walked into the church dabbing handkerchiefs at their eyes; many of the same were laughing 90 minutes later after hearing stories of Daly's famed pessimistic, charming personality.

"Coach. Daddy Rich. Prince of pessimism. Hall of Famer. Champion," Daly's daughter, Cydney, told mourners. "He went by many different names to many people, but there was only one person who called him daddy."

Daly coached parts of 22 seasons at the NBA and NCAA levels, winning more than 61 percent of his games along the way. His legacy best revolves around a four-year stretch from 1988 through 1992, when he won what essentially were three world championships—the pair of NBA titles with the Pistons, then Olympic gold in Barcelona with the Dream Team.

It was never in doubt: Daly's team romped to victory in every game at those Olympics. And even as the cancer grew and his health worsened in recent weeks, Daly—who took great delight from the "CD" lapel pins NBA coaches and broadcasters are wearing during this season's playoffs, which were dedicated to him—was still coaching.

Only a few weeks ago, Daly watched an NCAA regional game between Villanova and Pittsburgh. He took notes on the way Villanova played, pointing out some flaws in the Wildcats' late-game execution, and summoned Massimino—a former Wildcats coach—to deliver them to the current Villanova staff.

Massimino recalled Daly saying, "Take this to Jay Wright and tell him to smarten up."

That wasn't harsh. That was Daly.

And when Massimino delivered that story Wednesday, the church broke into laughter.

"It's not a good day," said Laimbeer, his eyes reddened. "But it's also a day of celebration because everybody got up and spoke about what a great man Chuck was. And they were right."

NBA commissioner David Stern was in attendance, as was current Pistons coach Michael Curry, former Pistons player John Salley—who gave Daly the "Daddy Rich" nickname in a nod to his tailored, ultra-expensive suits—and several members of the Miami Heat organization, including Hall of Famer Bob McAdoo, former Daly assistant Ron Rothstein and team president Pat Riley.

As he walked away from the church, Riley pulled on a pair of sunglasses to mask his tears.

"I think we all aspired to be like him," he said, softly. "We couldn't."

Lee, Indians shut out White Sox

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cliff Lee outpitched Mark Buehrle, throwing seven innings in the Cleveland Indians' 4-0 win Wednesday to take two of three from the Chicago White Sox.

It was the second series the last-place Indians have won this year, and the first since they took two of three from Kansas City at home April 21-23. Cleveland had not shut out an opponent since Lee did it with a complete game against the White Sox on Sept. 1.

Victor Martinez homered on Buehrle's seventh pitch of the game, and Ryan Garko added a two-run blast in the fourth to give Lee (2-5) his first victory in nearly a month.

Yankees 8, Blue Jays 2

At Toronto, Brett Gardner hit his first major league homer and drove in three runs, Andy Pettitte won for the first time in four starts and the Yankees beat the Blue Jays.

The Yankees finished with 11 hits, including eight for extra bases, and improved to 11-0 when holding their opponent to three runs or less.

Rays 8, Orioles 6

At Baltimore, Willie Aybar hit a tie-breaking RBI single in the sixth inning and the Rays beat the Orioles.

Jason Bartlett matched a career high with his fifth homer of the season for the Rays, who scored four times in the ninth off Bob McCrory and held on after the Orioles rallied in the bottom half. Bartlett and B.J. Upton finished with three hits each and Dioner Navarro had two RBIs.

Rangers 6, Mariners 5, 11 innings

At Arlington, Texas, Hank Blalock's two-run double in the 11th inning rallied the Rangers to a victory over the Mariners.

Wladimir Balentien's RBI double in the top of the 11th had given the Mariners a 5-4 lead.

Angels 8, Red Sox 4

At Anaheim, Calif., Matt Palmer overcame a shaky start before retiring the last 19 batters to lead the Angels to a victory over the Red Sox.

Mike Napoli hit a go-ahead three-run homer and Torii Hunter also went deep against knuckleballer Tim Wakefield (4-2), who is 0-6 with a 9.30 ERA in his last six road starts against the two-time defending AL West champions.

Athletics 7, Royals 2

At Oakland, Calif., Jack Cust's three-run double broke open a close game and helped Josh Outman win his first game of the season as the Athletics beat the Royals.

Kansas City starter Brian Bannister (3-1) gave up two runs in 5 2-3 innings and lost for the first time this season. The right-hander left the game with tightness in his right shoulder after Cust hit a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

Twins 14, Tigers 10, 13 innings

At Minneapolis, Joe Crede's two-out grand slam in the 13th inning off a tired Brandon Lyon gave the Twins a win over Detroit—hours after Dontrelle Willis made his first start of the season for the Tigers.

Nationals 6, Giants 3

At San Francisco, Ryan Zimmerman's 30-game hitting streak ended when he went 0-for-3 with two walks, but Shairon Martis allowed two hits over seven sharp innings to remain unbeaten this season in the Washington Nationals' victory over the San Francisco Giants.

Zimmerman never got the ball out of the infield, falling just short of Vladimir Guerrero's(notes) franchise-record streak of 31 games for the Montreal Expos in 1999.

Braves 8, Mets 7, 12 innings

At New York, Martin Prado homered in the 12th inning and Atlanta beat New York after wasting three leads.

Gary Sheffield tied the score in the eighth with his second home run of the season and No. 501 of his career. Fernando Tatis hit a grand slam for the Mets, who stranded the potential tying run at third in the 12th.

Pirates 5, Cardinals 2

At Pittsburgh, Adam LaRoche became the first player to have a home run taken away by video replay, but it didn't prevent the last-place Pirates from beating the Cardinals behind Ross Ohlendorf's two-hit pitching over six innings.

The Pirates had lost eight in a row and 12 of 13 before outscoring the Cardinals 12-3 while winning the first two games of the three-game series. The Cardinals have lost five in a row in Pittsburgh, including a 7-1 loss Monday.

Dodgers 9, Phillies 2

At Philadelphia, Randy Wolf dominated his former team, James Loney homered and drove in four runs and the Dodgers beat the Phillies.

Wolf (2-1) allowed one run and three hits, striking out eight in six sharp innings in his second career start against the Phillies. Wolf spent his first eight years in Philadelphia, leaving after the 2006 season.

Brewers 8, Marlins 6

At Milwaukee, Rickie Weeks homered for the third straight game and the Brewers rallied again, benefiting from an umpires' video replay reversal to beat the Marlins.

Marlins pinch-hitter Ross Gload apparently hit a two-run homer down the right-field line off Braden Looper in the sixth inning that would've cut Milwaukee's lead to 8-7.

Cubs 6, Padres 4, 7 1/2 innings

At Chicago, Alfonso Soriano hit his 53rd career leadoff homer and the Cubs beat the Padres in a rain-shortened game.

Soriano moved into a tie for second place on the all-time list with Craig Biggio. Ryan Theriot added two homers and Geovany Soto went deep for the first time this season in a game that was stopped following a 58-minute delay before the bottom of the eighth after a barrage of lightning and rain.

Astros 15, Rockies 11

At Denver, Lance Berkman went 4-for-4 and the Astros finished with 24 hits in a victory over the Rockies.

Berkman drove in two runs and scored three times for the Astros, who were one hit shy of their franchise record for a nine-inning game set during the second matchup in a doubleheader against Atlanta on May 30, 1976. Geoff Blum matched his career high with five RBIs.

Reds 10, Diamondbacks 3

At Phoenix, Brandon Phillips drove in four runs Wednesday night and the Reds completed a three-game sweep in Arizona.

Gerardo Parra homered in his first major league at-bat but Arizona could muster little offense beyond that against Johnny Cueto.

Jason Taylor rejoins Dolphins

MIAMI (AP)—Jason Taylor's newest step has him back where he started. The dancing linebacker signed a $1.5 million, one-year contract Wednesday with the Miami Dolphins.

Taylor played his first 11 seasons with Miami before being traded a year ago to the Washington Redskins—a fallout from his stint on the TV show "Dancing With the Stars." He was released by Washington in March after one injury-plagued season.

The New England Patriots courted the 34-year-old Taylor in recent weeks, but he wanted to return to South Florida, where he still lives. He will make $1.1 million in base salary and $400,000 in easy to reach incentives.

"My heart has always been in Miami, and so I'm truly excited to call myself a Dolphin once again," Taylor said in a statement. "I was presented with a number of different opportunities, but in the end the combination of this being the best situation for my family, my love for this community and my tremendous loyalty to a great organization made this an easy decision."

Taylor made the Pro Bowl six times with Miami and was NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 2006.

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40 to take part in Spearfishing Tournament

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Forty of the region's top fishermen will take part in tomorrow's 3rd Annual Spearfishing Tournament organized by the Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club.

MASC president Morito Asai aside from defending weight division winners Scott Russell and Pete Houk also in the mix are veteran spearfisherman Felix Sasomoto and his brother Greg and Guam's Myles Driscoll and Mike Genereux and brothers James and Ken Borja.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Scott Russell and Pete Houk show off their 72.92-lb. haul of fishing during last year's 2nd Annual Spearfishing Tournament.

Asai said he is expecting an exciting spearfishing tournament this Saturday with the 20 pairs duking it out for the top prize.

He said categories to be contested are biggest fish (first prize only) and total weight, which includes individual (first to third) and team (first to 10th places). To minimize the time for weigh-ins, Asai said there would be no fish category this year and MASC will only accept a catch that is at least 11 lbs.

The 3rd Annual Spearfishing Tournament starts at 6am and last until 4pm with no limitation on the area of coverage. The spearfishing area includes Tinian or Goat Island, except sanctuary and dive spots, and the Banzai Cliff area.

Asai reminded participants that the tournament's entry fee per person is $50.

For more information about the 3rd Annual Spearfishing Tournament, contact Asai at dive@aquasmith.com.

Last year, Genereux and the tandem of Russell and Houk topped the individual and team categories respectively of the 2nd Annual Spearfishing Tournament.

Genereux earned the top spearfishermen award after catching 47.4 lbs. of fish, followed by Jess Hapdei (47 lbs.), and Russell (45.22 lbs.).

Russell and Houk, meanwhile, dominated the team competition after hauling 72.92 lbs. of fish back to shore. Genereux and Driscoll came in a far second (62.7 lbs). while Borja brothers finished third (45.22 lbs.)

In other prizes, Brian Fitzgerald won the parrotfish category (4.66 lbs), Mike Lizama the trivally (4.66 lbs.), Cliff Sabo the rudderfish (3.14 lbs.), Felix Sasamoto the black snapper (1.5 lbs.), Anthony Roberts the sweetlips (4.44 lbs.), Nick Gross the unicorn fish (5.14 lbs.), Dan Repeki the grouper (2.64 lbs.), Frank Pangelinan the emperor (3.26 lbs.), and Roberts again in the goatfish category (1.08 lbs.).

All Schools track meet begins today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics will kick off the two-day 2009 McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships today at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Competitions in running, jumping, and throwing events will begin at 4:30pm, while tomorrow's events will start at 9am. The tournament is for elementary, junior high, and high school students.

Events lined up at 4:30pm were high jump and 3,000m steeplechase. The high jump event is only for U12, U14, and U8 age groups, while the 3,000m steeplechase will also have the U10 and U18 age categories.

Other events tonight are the 400m run and 800m run, and the 4x400m relay race. Medal presentations will be done after each event. The Top 3 finishers in each event will receive medals.

The All Schools meet will continue tomorrow with eight more events, namely, the 1,500m run, softball throw and long jump at 9am, 100m run and javelin throw at 10am, 200m run and shot put at 11am, and the 4x100m relay race at 1pm.

An awards ceremony will be held at 2pm with NMA awarding trophies to the Top 3 schools in each age group.

Schools will get points based on how their students finished in each event. First finisher gets 10 points, eight for second, six for third, four for fifth, two for fifth, and one for sixth.

Prior to this weekend's meet, NMA held qualifying tournaments to determine the student-athletes who will make it to the annual event.

Only the Top 8 student-athletes in each event are eligible to compete in the All Schools. The two remaining slots are reserved for Rota and Tinian students. In case Tinian and Rota do not have participants in an event, the next two finishers will take the slots. Also, student-athletes are allowed to join only four events.

The meet was originally set for last Saturday, but NMA moved the schedule to give schools more time to prepare for the tournament.

"NMA officials would like to express its sincerest apologies to all participating schools, student-athletes, coaches, parents, and supporters for the inconvenience this changes had caused them," NMA said in a media released.

PIC 3 vs. 3 Soccer Tournament this weekend

Pacific Islands Club will host its 8th Annual PIC 3 vs. 3 Soccer Tournament this weekend, May 16 and 17.

The first day will consist of pool play and the second day will be a double elimination bracket. Registration and warm-up will begin at 9am on Saturday.

Players will be ranked as a "1" (advanced) "2" (intermediate) or "3" (beginner). Each team will consist of one randomly drawn player from each category. Players of all ability are welcome but must be 15 years or older.

Players need to pre-register at PIC. Registration forms will be available at the Information Center or the SEA office. The cost is $15 per player. Cost includes a water park pass for each day of the tournament.

The entry deadline was yesterday, May 14, 5pm. Organizers said no late entries will be accepted.

For more information about the 8th Annual PIC 3 vs. 3 Soccer Tournament, contact Lindsey Sosovec at 235-6231 ext. 5147 or email at sportsmanager@picsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

FIBA

From Page 36

ing here, said BANMI is still positive about the event and vowed to run a good show despite the withdrawals of three nations.

"We are still looking forward to a great tournament. We will have the chance to play our traditional rival Guam, as well as perennial powerhouse New Caledonia. With the new tournament format, we will get the opportunity to measure ourselves against both Australia and New Zealand. CNMI basketball fans will still get the chance to watch the Pacific's best in action," White said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

"We're going to do our best to show our off-island guests some real CNMI hospitality by putting out a tournament that everyone who comes will remember—and everyone who doesn't come will be sorry they missed," he added.

Smith in the same media release said FIBA Oceania understood the three nations' decision, saying financial difficulties around the world is truly having an impact on the sporting life of Pacific Island athletes.

"Many people in developed countries do not fully understand the difficulties faced by team sports in the Oceania region in trying to conduct regular competitions. With many Pacific Island nations having an average income per capita of less than $5,000, to ask an athlete or their parents to spend $2,000 or $3,000 on airfare to go to an international competition is a huge ask. And during these uncertain economic times, the desire to cut down on spending is even more understandable," Smith said.

In this situation, Smith can't help but feel sad for individuals/groups who tried to pull out all their resources just to make the trip, but still fell short.

"I have great sympathy for the administrators in these countries who have had to make an obviously difficult call. I have an even greater sympathy for the players, coaches, and referees who will be denied the chance to compete against Australia and New Zealand. This is an opportunity which only comes around once every four years and for some players, it may be their chance of a lifetime," said Smith.

Smith added the withdrawals of Palau, Fiji, and Tahiti is a wake-up call for the zone, which may have to review its competition structure to cope with the financial crisis it is experiencing right now.

"FIBA Oceania will need to examine its competition structure to see if it is viable under existing economic conditions in the Pacific. With the Oceania Youth Tournament hosting given to New Caledonia in October 2010, certainly there's a need to avoid a similar situation for that event," FIBA Oceania's statement read.

OL'ACES

From Page 36

job on the mound, but only in the first two innings. Castro allowed only one hit, walked two, and struck out three in the first two innings.

With Castro in control and D-9ers' defense hanging on, the game ended in a deadlock after two innings, 1-all. Chad Atalig scored D-9ers' first run on a Dave Camacho single, while Lisua made it home on a passed ball.

The succeeding innings saw Ol'Aces' runners reaching home plate one after another, while D-9ers struggled with the ball and committed costly errors that allowed the former to take a 10-run win.

Ol'Aces tallied five runs at the top of the third, nailing three of them off D-9ers' miscues—on two passed balls and a third baseman error. In the fourth inning, Lisua scored on another passed ball, while third baseman Jimmy Brel recorded his second run on a Mario Salas single. Ol'Aces added six more runs in the fifth, three of them were unearned, and closed out with two runs on passed balls and one on a sacrifice fly in the sixth inning.

Brel hit 4-for-5 at the plate for Ol'Aces and had one triple and an RBI. Second baseman Leo Galarse was 3-for-4, made a double, and scored three runs. Shortstop Juan Iguel and Salas went only 1-for-4 and 2-for-4, respectively, but had two RBIs apiece.

Dave Camacho led D-9ers' offense, going 3-for-4 at the plate. He had two RBIs and one double. The rest of D-9ers sluggers struggled at bat against Lisua. The D-9ers hit only 7-for-34 for a batting average of .170.

FITIAL

From Page 36

Kim Whi Gyu (Korea) vs. Wang Sai (China); Kim Ho Jin (Korea) vs. Chris Bostick (USA); Marko Huusansaari (Finland) vs. Xue Guo Bin (China); Shawn David (USA) vs. Ole Baguio Larson (Denmark); Sirojiddin Uzakbaev (Uzbekistan) vs. Ning Guang You (China); Fransino Tirta (Indonesia) vs. Malik Arash Mawlayi (Sweden); Atsuhiro Tsuboi (Japan) vs. Dai Shuang Hai (China); and Baga Agaev (Russia) vs. Rolles Gracie (Brazil).

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, will be in town to watch the bouts.

China's Art of War is one of the most watched mixed martial arts events in the world. It is established in 2004, promoted by Adoria Entertainment Group, and is mainland China's premier mixed martial arts promotion. The Art of War Fighting Championship is broadcasted via satellite nationwide to a network coverage of 300 million viewers.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	23	13	.639	-
Boston	21	13	.618	1
New York	16	17	.485	5 1/2
Tampa Bay	16	19	.457	6 1/2
Baltimore	14	20	.412	8

Central Division

Detroit	17	15	.531	-
Kansas City	18	16	.529	-
Minnesota	17	17	.500	1
Chicago	15	17	.469	2
Cleveland	13	22	.371	5 1/2

West Division

Texas	19	14	.576	-
Los Angeles	17	15	.531	1 1/2
Seattle	15	18	.455	4
Oakland	13	18	.419	5

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	18	15	.545	-
Philadelphia	16	15	.516	1
Atlanta	17	17	.500	1 1/2
Florida	17	17	.500	1 1/2
Washington	11	21	.344	6 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	20	14	.588	-
Milwaukee	20	14	.588	-
St. Louis	20	14	.588	-
Chicago	19	14	.576	1/2
Houston	15	18	.455	4 1/2
Pittsburgh	14	19	.424	5 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	23	12	.657	-
San Francisco	18	15	.545	4
Colorado	13	19	.406	8 1/2
San Diego	13	21	.382	9 1/2
Arizona	13	22	.371	10

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 8, N.Y. Mets 7, 12 innings
Washington 6, San Francisco 3
Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 2
L.A. Dodgers 9, Philadelphia 2
Milwaukee 8, Florida 6
Chicago Cubs 6, San Diego 4, 7 innings
Houston 15, Colorado 11
Cincinnati 10, Arizona 3
Cleveland 4, Chicago White Sox 0
Tampa Bay 8, Baltimore 6
N.Y. Yankees 8, Toronto 2
Texas 6, Seattle 5, 11 innings
Minnesota 14, Detroit 10, 13 innings
L.A. Angels 8, Boston 4
Oakland 7, Kansas City 2

By The Associated Press

Mt. Carmel School Golf Tournament

PHOTOS By MARK RABAGO

The winners of the 7th Annual Mount Carmel School Golf Tournament pose with the school's president Margaret Dela Cruz, second right, after the awards banquet Saturday at the grounds of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Junior golfer Chang Kyun Kim won the championship flight of the 7th Annual Mount Carmel School Golf Tournament.

Championship Flight winner Chang Kyun Kim poses with Mt. Carmel School board member Elizabeth Balajadia.

Mr. Unorthodox Jess Wabol came in second in the championship flight. He poses here with Mt. Carmel School board member Elizabeth Balajadia.

Championship flight third placer Jung Won Lee with Mt. Carmel School board member Elizabeth Balajadia.

Rey San Nicolas receives his B flight runner-up trophy from Mt. Carmel School board member Elizabeth Balajadia.

Greg Castro finished third in the B flight and poses here with Mt. Carmel School board member Elizabeth Balajadia.

B flight second runner-up Frankie Pangelinan poses here with Mt. Carmel School board member Elizabeth Balajadia.

Nuggets reach first conference finals since 1985

The Denver Nuggets are leaving all the animosity with the Dallas Mavericks' players, fans and owner behind and are heading to their first Western Conference finals since 1985. 32

Saipan Tribune
Sports

40 to take part in Spearfishing Tournament

Forty of the region's top fishermen will take part in tomorrow's 3rd Annual Spearfishing Tournament organized by the Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club. 34

FIBA Oceania Tournament still a go

Despite pullout of three teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

FIBA Oceania assured teams and other concerned parties that the 2009 FIBA Oceania Tournament will go ahead as scheduled despite the withdrawals of three member-nations.

Fiji, Tahiti, and Palau pulled out of the Oceania caging, which CNMI will be hosting from June 20 to 28, due to financial difficulties.

"FIBA Oceania announces with great reluctance and sadness the withdrawal of teams from Tahiti, Fiji, and Palau from the forthcoming FIBA Oceania Tournament to be played on Saipan," read the official statement FIBA Oceania sent to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

FIBA Oceania secretary general Steve Smith reiterated that despite the withdrawals, the quadrennial tournament will still push through.

Smith

"The FIBA Oceania tournament on Saipan will go ahead with 10 teams and each division (men's and women's) playing a full round of games and then a further top of the table elimination series leading to the medal rounds," Smith said.

Besides the CNMI, Guam, New Caledonia, Australia, and New Zealand will be fielding their men's and women's teams in the Oceania caging.

Michael A. White, secretary general of Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands, which is in charge of organizing the Oceania cag-

See FIBA on Page 34

Ol'Aces whip D-9ers in Big League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ol'Aces capitalized on an erratic performance by the D9-ers to cruise to a 17-7 win in their game in the Big League division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Ol'Aces scored 11 of their total runs on D-9ers' fielding and passing errors. Starting pitcher Ryan Lisua reached home plate three times on passed balls. He went 3-for-5 at bat, made four runs, and complemented his good batting performance with an impressive stint on the mound. The lefty had eight strikeouts in five innings pitched.

Lisua's counterpart in D9-ers, Ton Castro, also did a great

See OL'ACES on Page 34

Ol'Aces' Ryan Lisua prepares to deliver a pitch during their game against D-9ers in the Big League division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fitial to face Japanese wrestler in China

MMACHINA.COM

Kelvin Fitial, left, seen here battling China's Li Zhi Feng during their bout in the Art of War 10 in Beijing in 2007, will be back in China for the Art Of War 12 "Invincible Fight" slated on May 23 at the Beijing Olympic Sports Center Auditorium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial will be gunning for a clean record in China when he competes in the Art Of War 12 "Invincible Fight" at the Beijing Olympic Sports Center Auditorium on May 23.

Fitial knocked out China's Li Zhi Feng during the Art of War 10 in 2007 and is hoping to do the same against Japan's Koji Kanechika in the over 96-kg. bout next Saturday.

"I will go out there in the cage with a big fighting heart, giving all my best to beat him. It will be a no let-up bout," said Fitial, who will leave for China with Trench Tech's jiu-jitsu instructor Jeff Cloud this Sunday.

Fitial's Japanese foe is a wrestler and also a trained judo fighter. Kanechika holds a 2-2 record, while Fitial has an 18-7-1 (win-loss-draw) slate.

"I will be aggressive at the start of the fight, then look how my opponent reacts, and pick up from there," said the Docomo Pacific-sponsored Fitial.

The Fitial-Kanechika duel is one of the 12 bouts set for "Invincible Fight." The main event bout will feature Japan's Yutaka Kobayashi and China's fast-rising MMA star Wu Hao Tian. Others in the fight card are Uzbekistan's Nemat Bobomukhamedov vs. China's Yao Qiang; Justin Holdaas (USA) vs. Francisco Ayon (Mexico);

See FITIAL on Page 34

LA blue

According to my cheap calculator, Manny Ramirez paid $7,716,049 for his mistake. Or you could call it priceless.

Getting nailed for using a women's fertility drug is an eye-popper, right up there with Marv Albert getting caught wearing women's underwear with a woman. Neither of those acts was illegal. Ramirez had a doctor's prescription. Marv's problem was that he also bit and assaulted the woman. Ramirez only assaulted the sensibility of the Dodgers ownership who gave him 25 million reasons to have a good season. Now he has a two-month vacation in the middle of the season.

Both Manny and Marv became the butt of jokes if not the butt themselves, assuming that's where ManRam got his booster shots.

Now that erectile dysfunction no longer is something to be ashamed of (cough, cough), that is one legitimate explanation why Manny needed gonadotropin, specifically HCG. At least, that's what the doctor said. Why not Viagra or Cialis? Those drugs are not banned by MLB. Maybe he didn't get the memo.

If Raphael Palmeiro had stuck to Viagra instead of steroids, he would still have his good reputation.

For the record, the substance that Ramirez got suspended for was banned by MLB last season but has been outlawed by other sports organizations since 1987.

Apparently Manny was running low on testosterone which just so happens is depleted by steroid use, and low testosterone can cause erectile dysfunction.

Gonadotropin is occasionally prescribed for men whose testicles have basically stopped functioning. That's what happens in men with a history of steroid use.

Ramirez admitted to having taken the substance, declined to appeal and is serving his 50-game suspension like, huh, a man(ny).

Ramirez might bring legal action against the physician. An MLB official said that if Ramirez had a legitimate need for a drug on the banned list, he could have applied for a therapeutic exemption. Ramirez, the official said, did not ask for one.

If HCG rings a bell, perhaps you remember that from when admitted steroid user Jose Canseco was caught attempting to smuggle it into the U.S. from Mexico.

True, Manny passed drug tests before. So did Barry Bonds. The guys who design designer drugs such as human growth hormone are usually one step ahead of those who are trying to catch them.

After going from Boston to Los Angeles, Manny received a hero's welcome. I never heard of any going-away parties in Beantown for the man who once punched a teammate and missed a game with no explanation.

This season one of the hot items sold in Dodger Stadium was the Manny caps with attached dreadlocks. Perhaps Manny has seen them on television since he hasn't been seen at ballpark since the suspension.

As of this writing, he has not yet apologized to his teammates and is secluded in self-imposed exile.

The Dodgers after a great start, thanks in part to Manny, are now in a tailspin which brings up this old joke.

"What was he thinking?"

"He wasn't.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2